

NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

38



岸本 齊史

Many of my friends are getting married lately. It's too bad I'm too busy to attend their weddings... I do so enjoy receptions.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2007

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





NARUTO VOL. 38
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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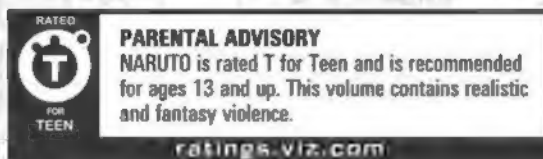
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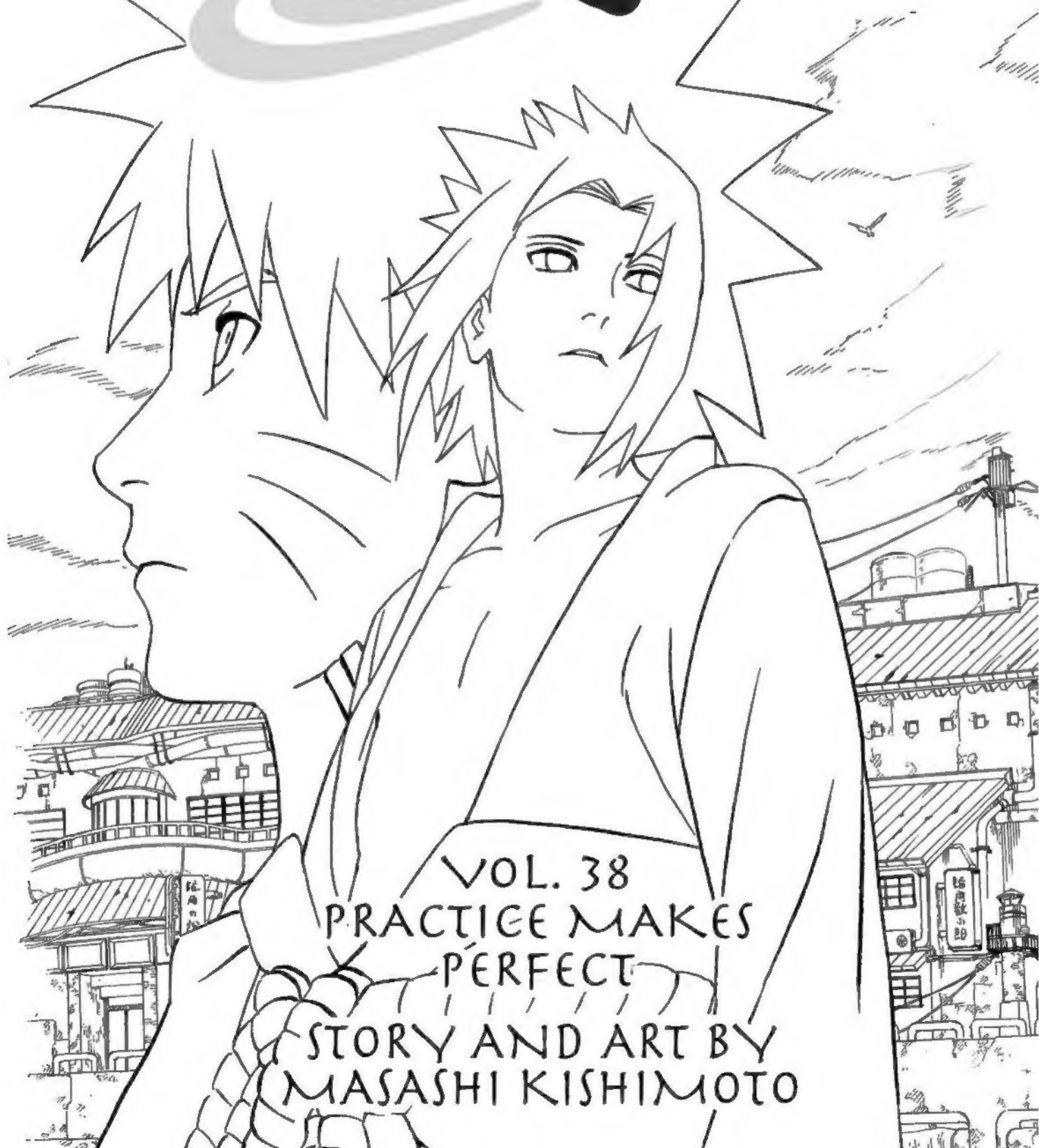
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition
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First printing, March 2009





SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 38
PRACTICE MAKES
PERFECT

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO



Naruto was once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy. Nevertheless, alongside his friends Sasuke and Sakura, he successfully joins the ranks of the ninja.

During the Chûnin Journeyman Ninja Selection Exam, Orochimaru launches *Operation Destroy Konoha*. Lord Hokage sacrifices his life to halt the attack; in the aftermath, Tsunade steps up to become the Fifth Hokage. Meanwhile, charmed by the power of Orochimaru, Sasuke defeats Naruto and departs Konoha; struggle as he will, Naruto can do nothing to stop him.

More than two years pass. Naruto and his friends undergo rigorous training. Yet when they finally catch up with Sasuke, his power overwhelms them.

Determined to best Sasuke, Naruto returns for another round of intense training. Meanwhile, Shikamaru and the others violently clash with the Akatsuki group. Though the scene looks grim, Naruto arrives just in time to deliver his lethal attack...

The Story So Far

CHARACTERS





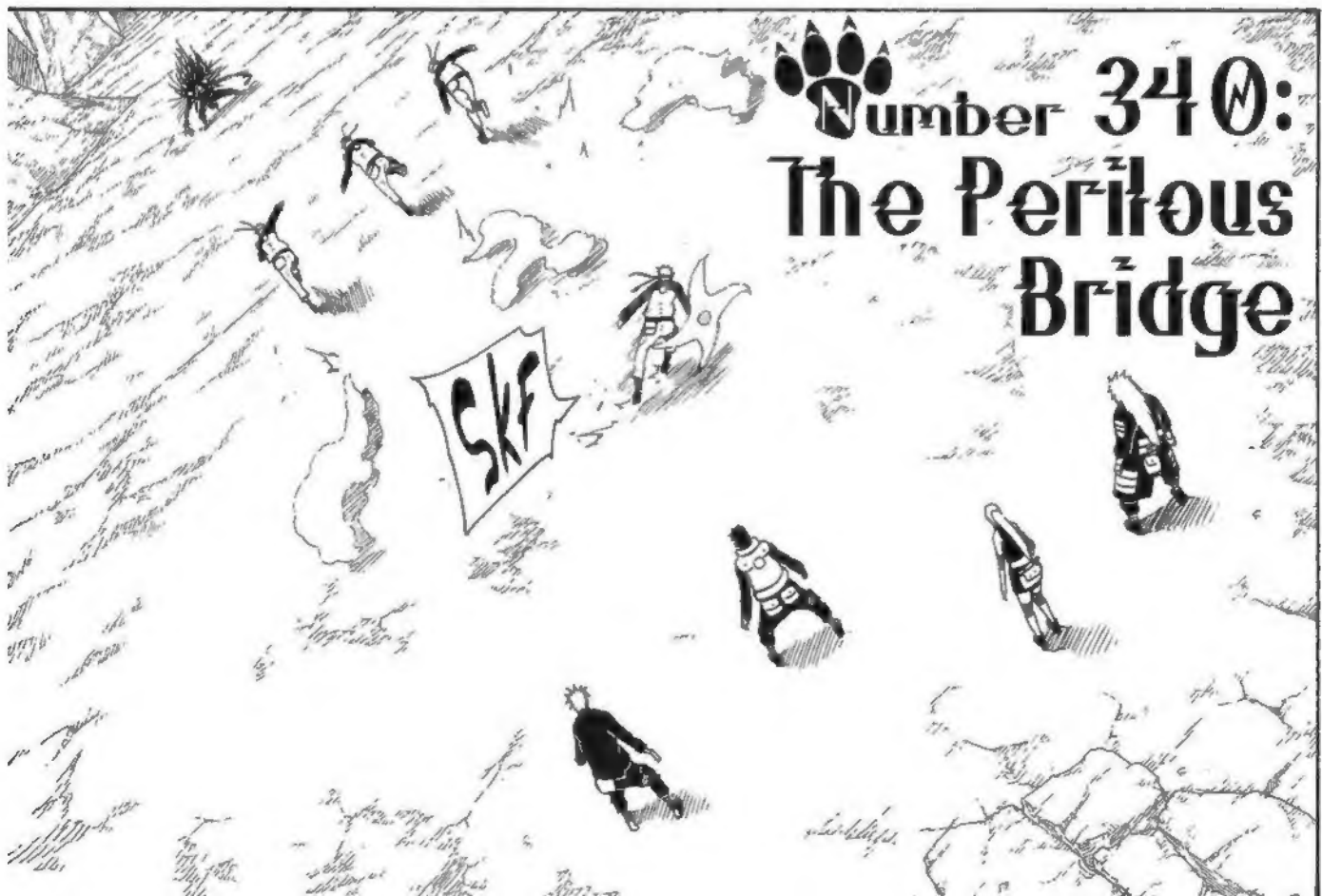
NARUTO

VOL. 38
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

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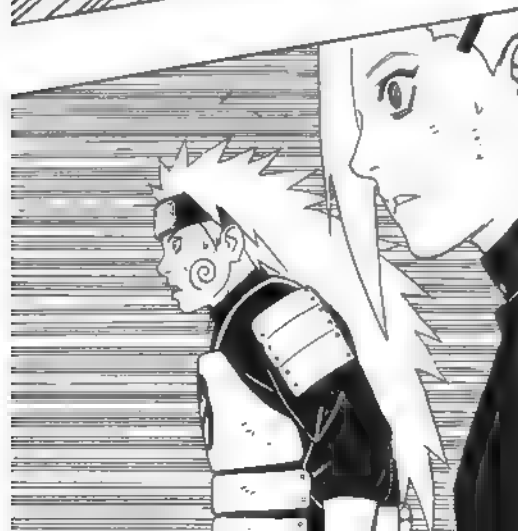
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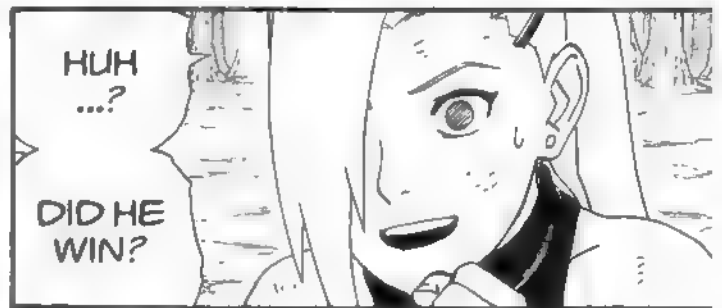
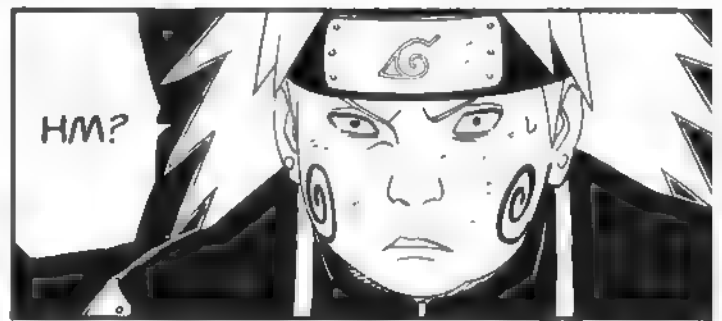
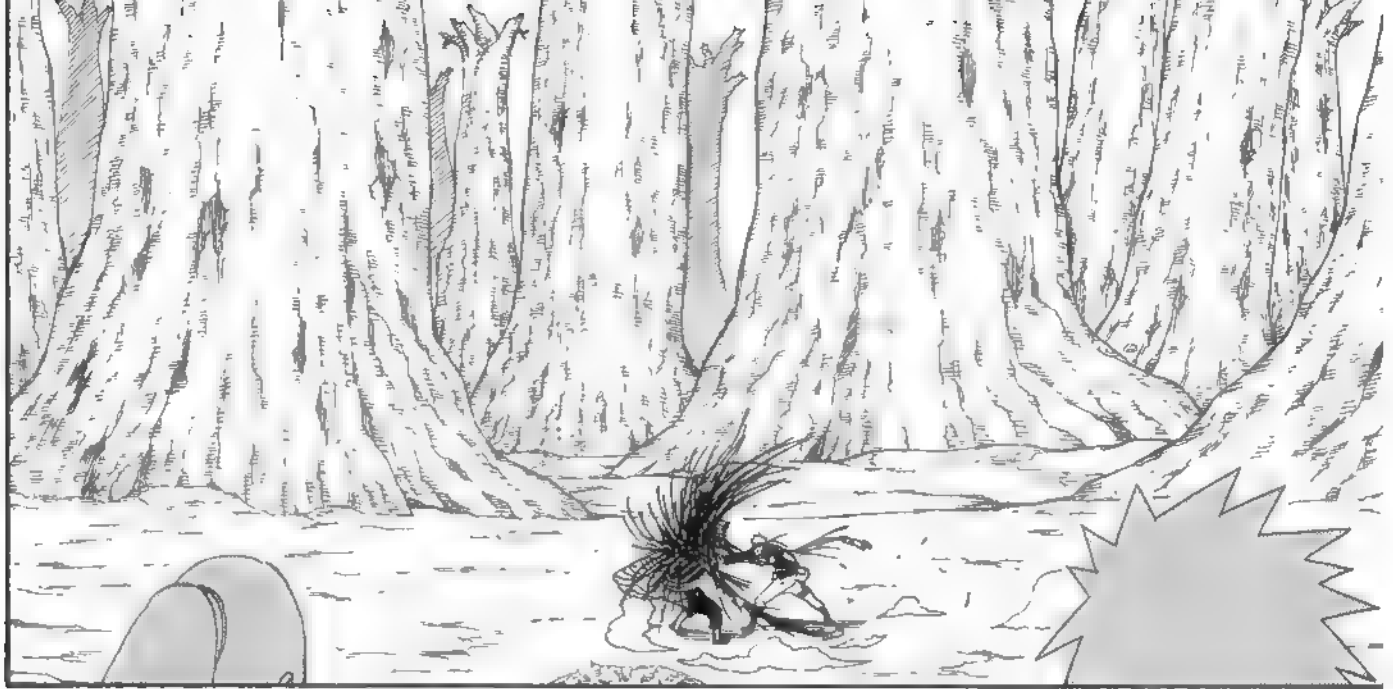








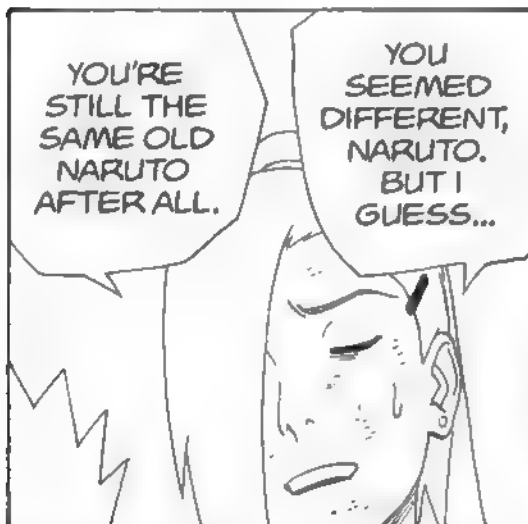
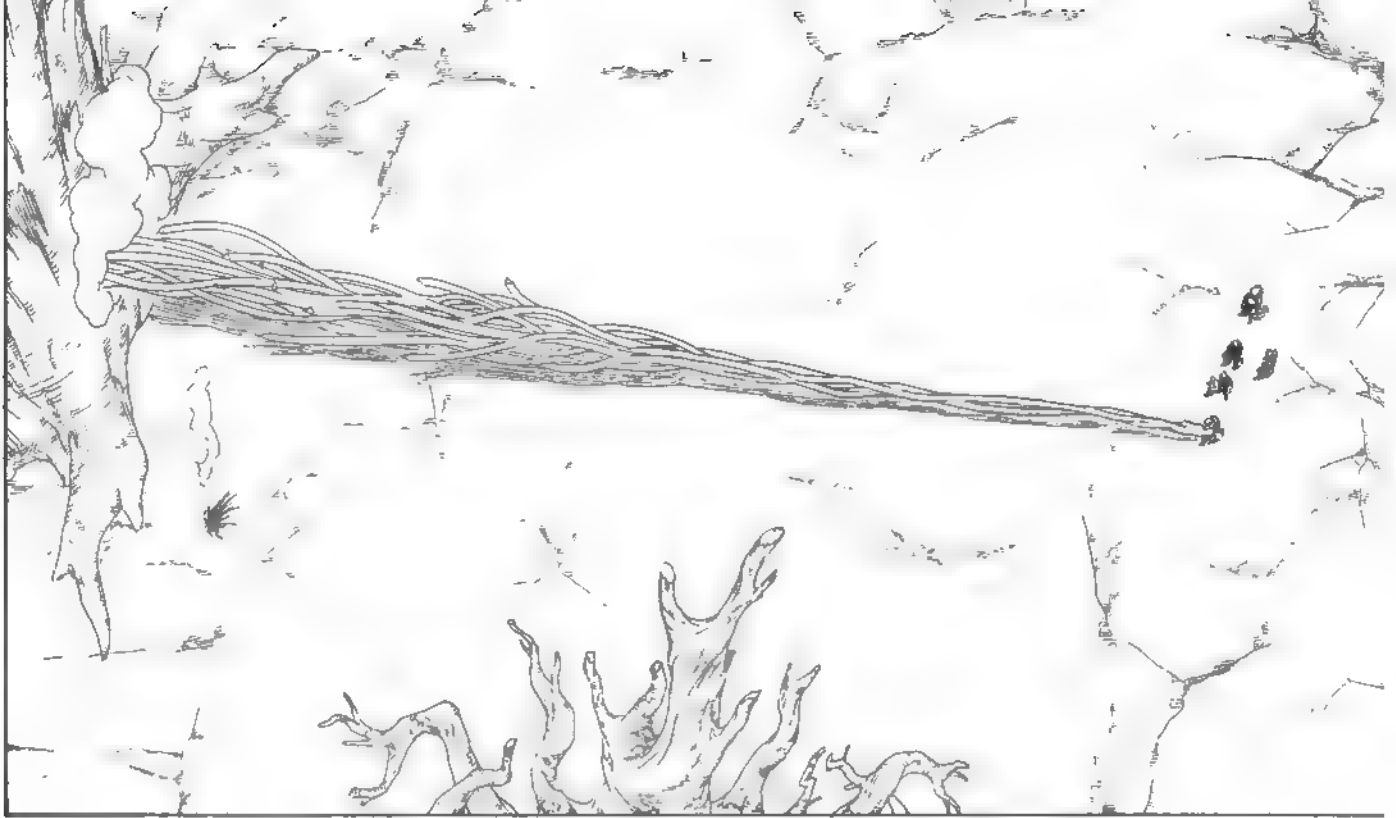


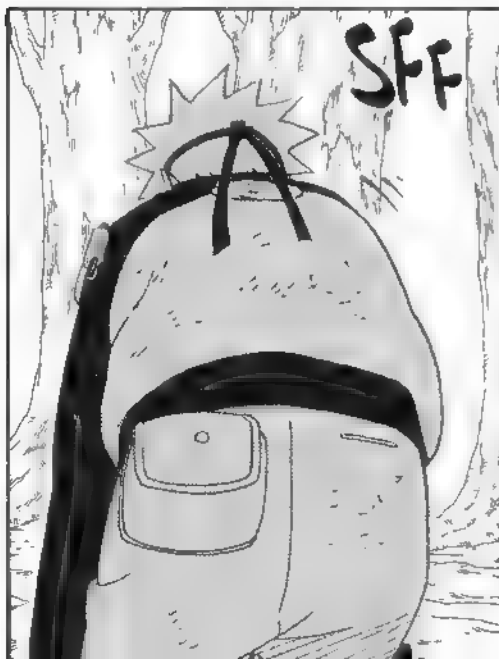
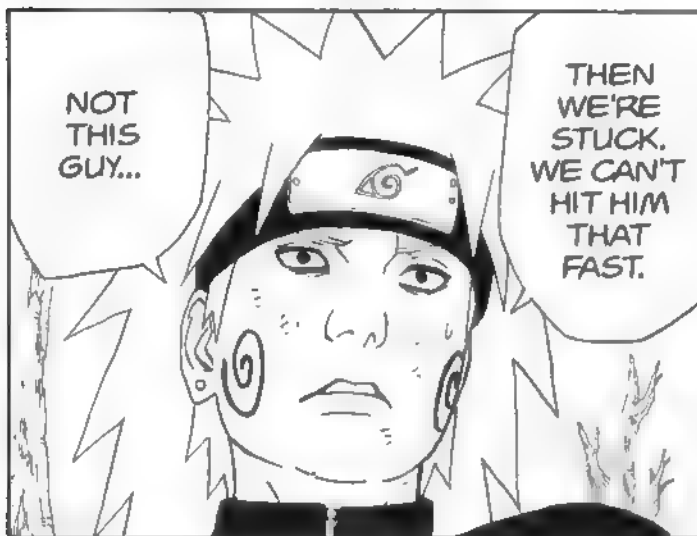




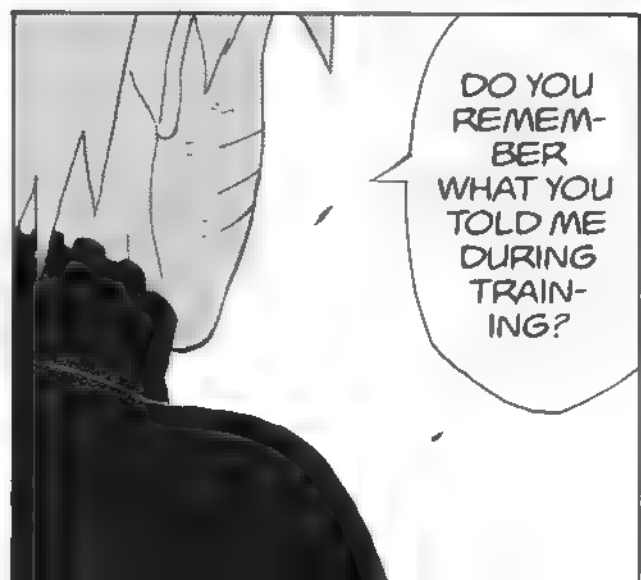


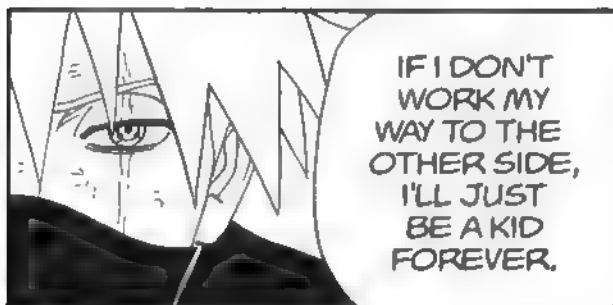
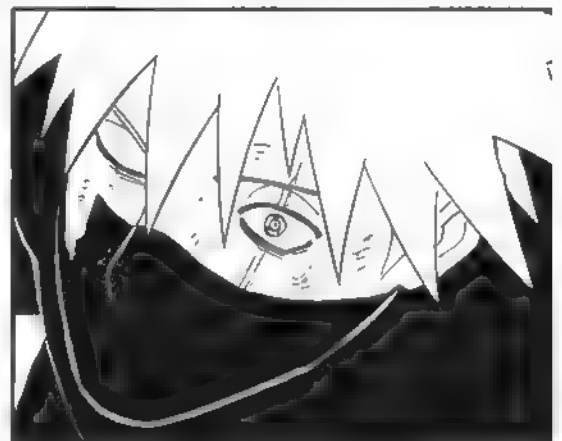
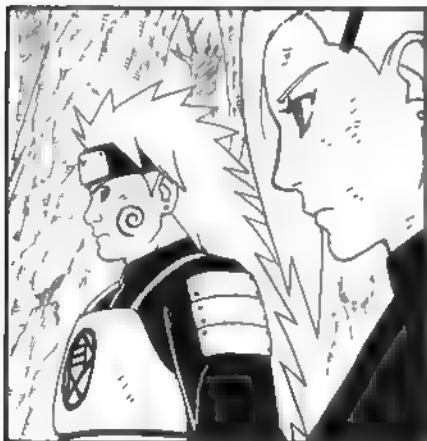


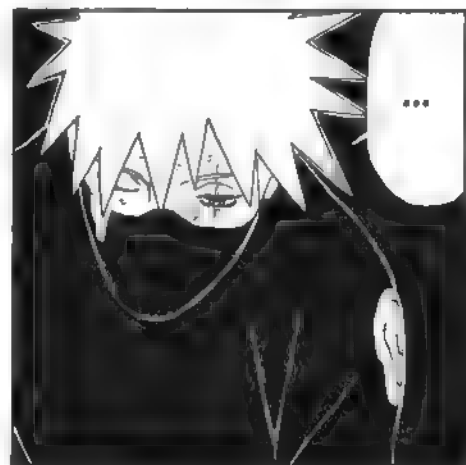












 Number 341: Practice Makes

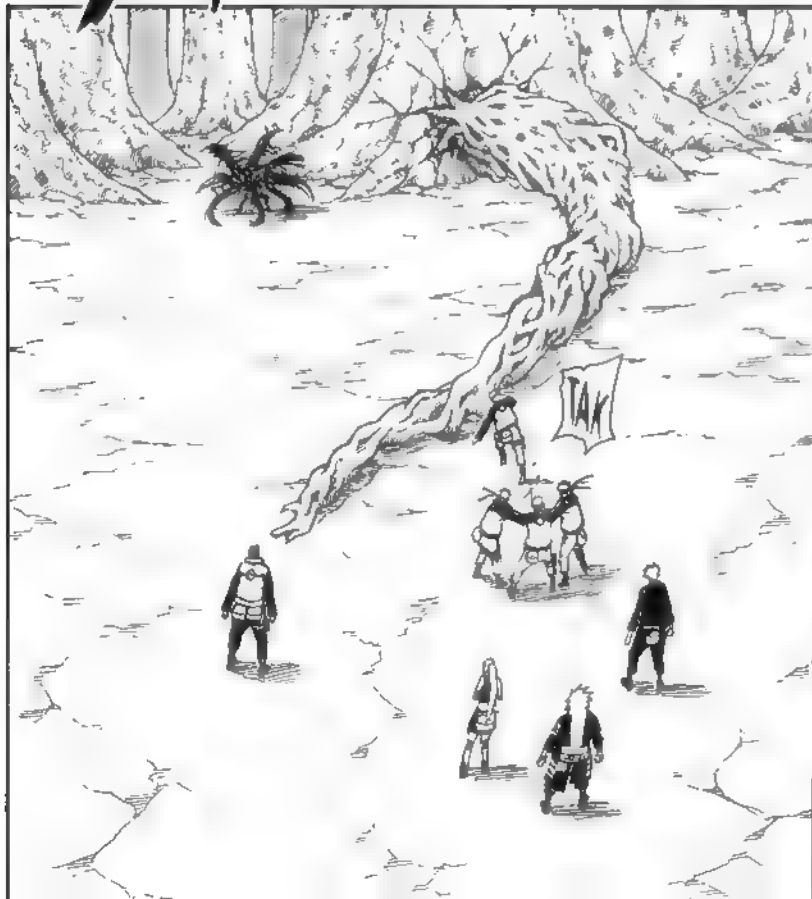
Perfect...!!







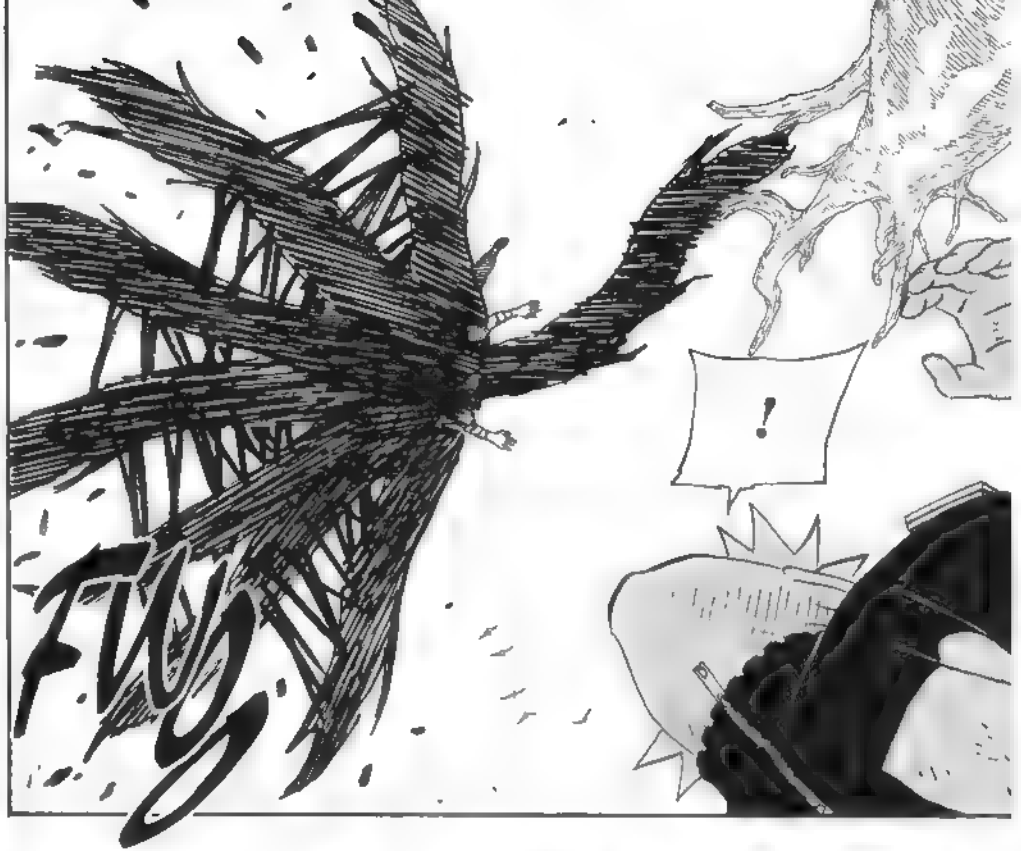








WHAT
A
JUMP!



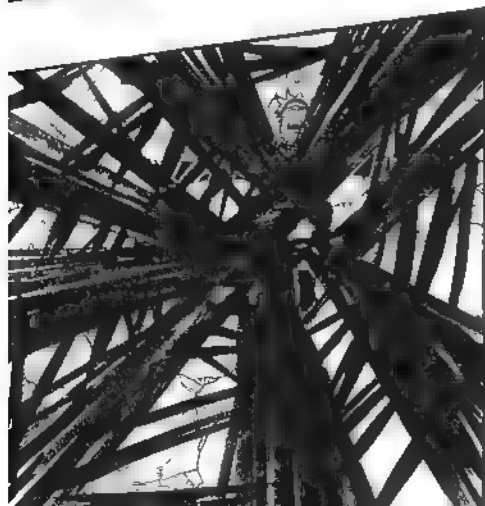
AIM
FOR
THE
HEAD,
AND
THE
REST
COMES
DOWN.

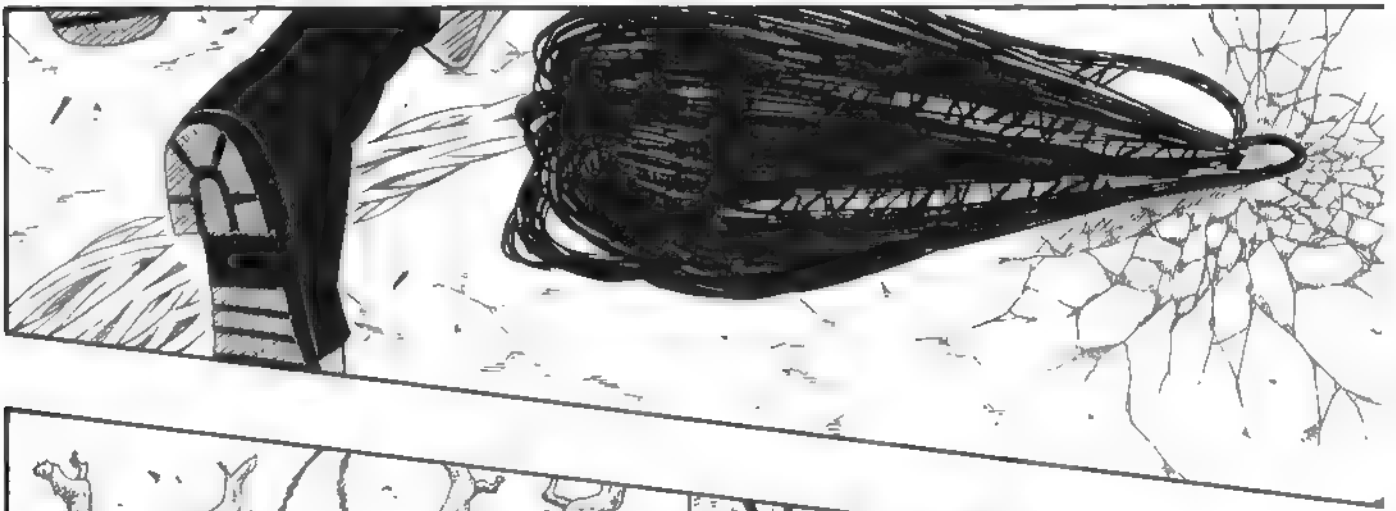
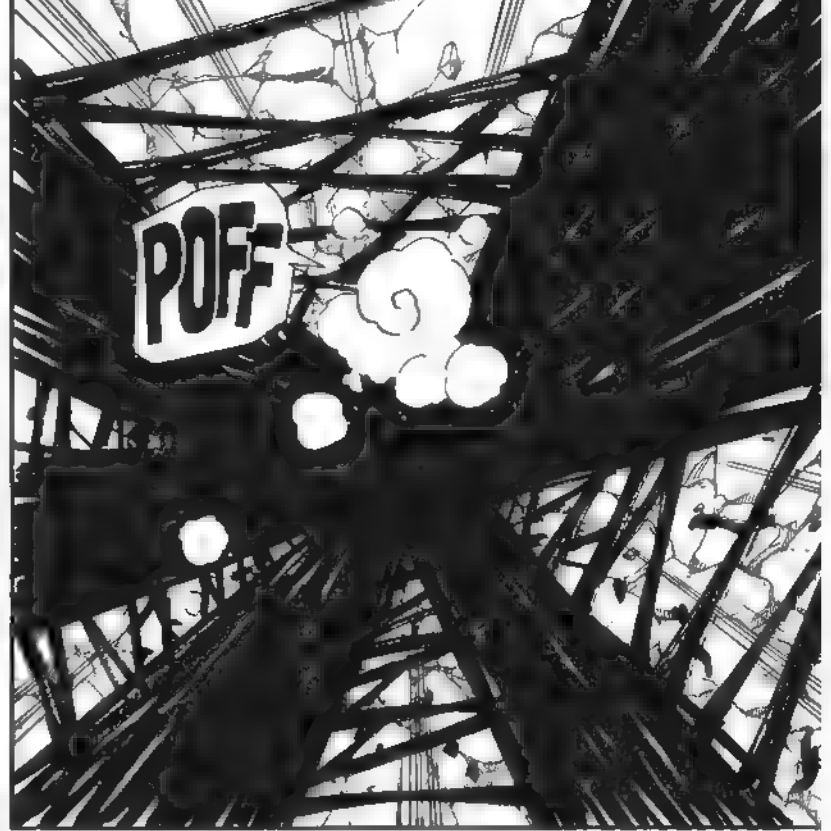
IGNORE
THE
DOPPEL-
GANGERS,
THEY'RE
JUST A
DISTRACTION.



ONCE I
DIFFUSE
HIS
JUTSU,
I'M
HOME
FREE.



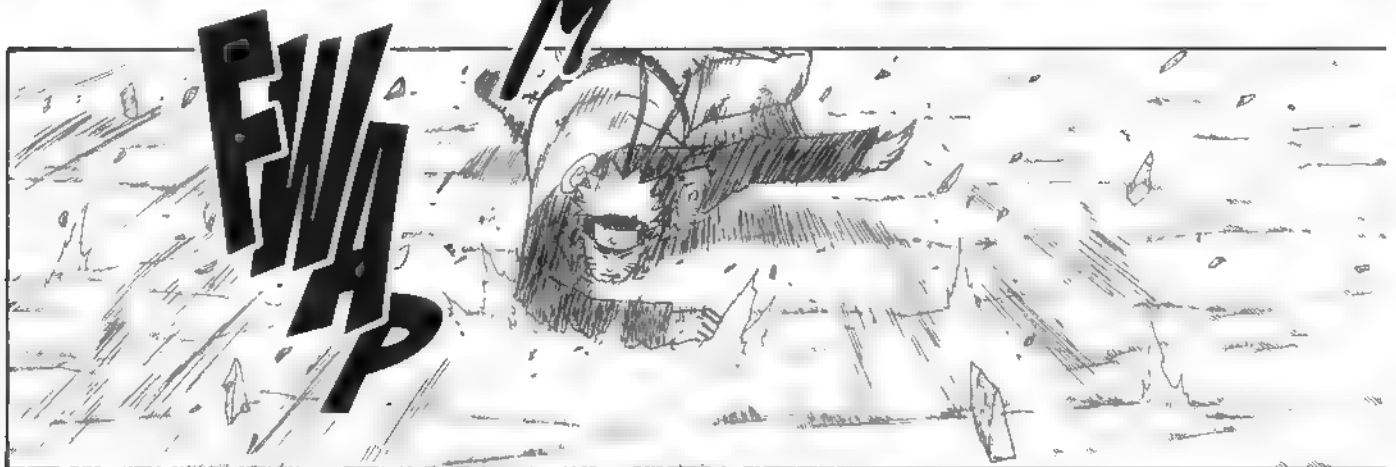








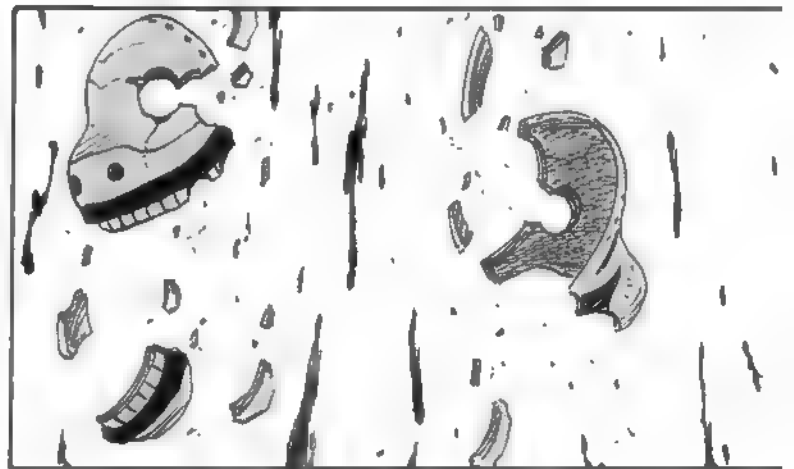
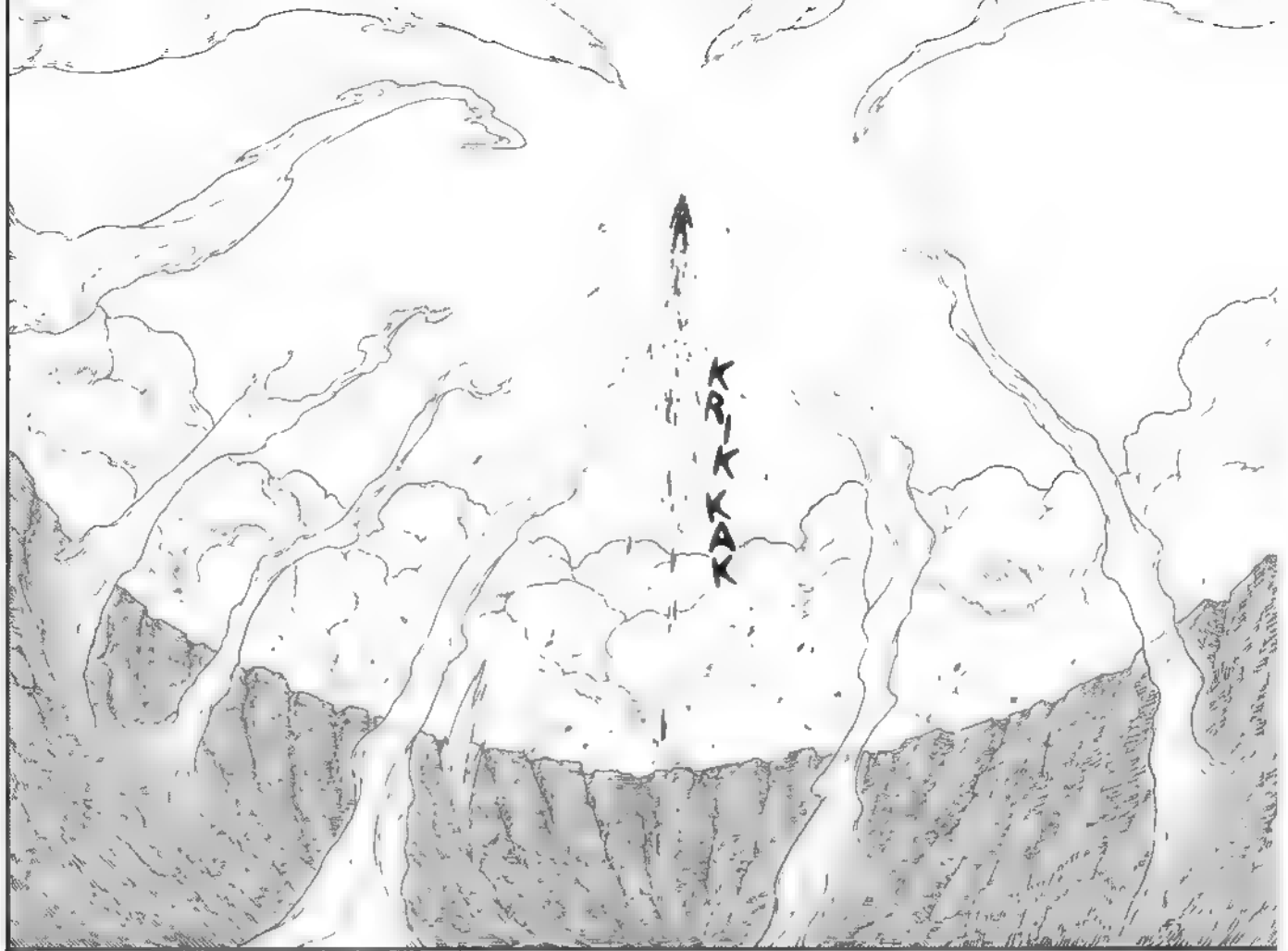


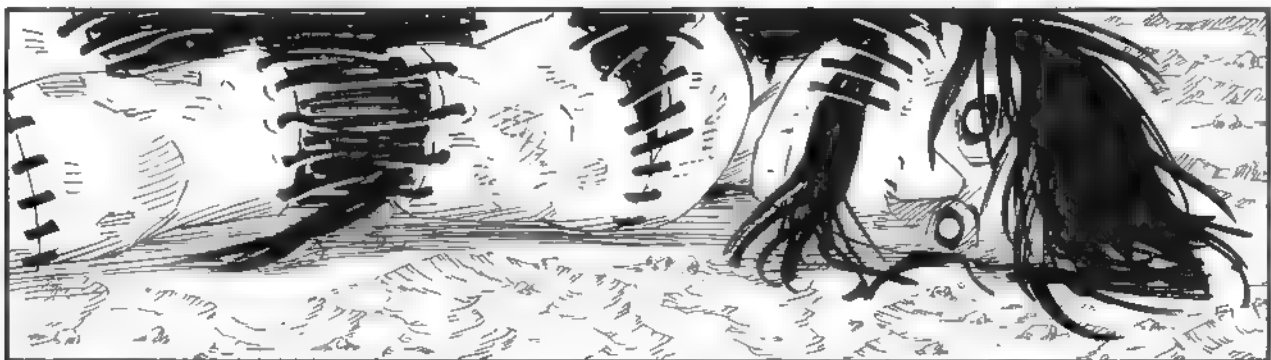
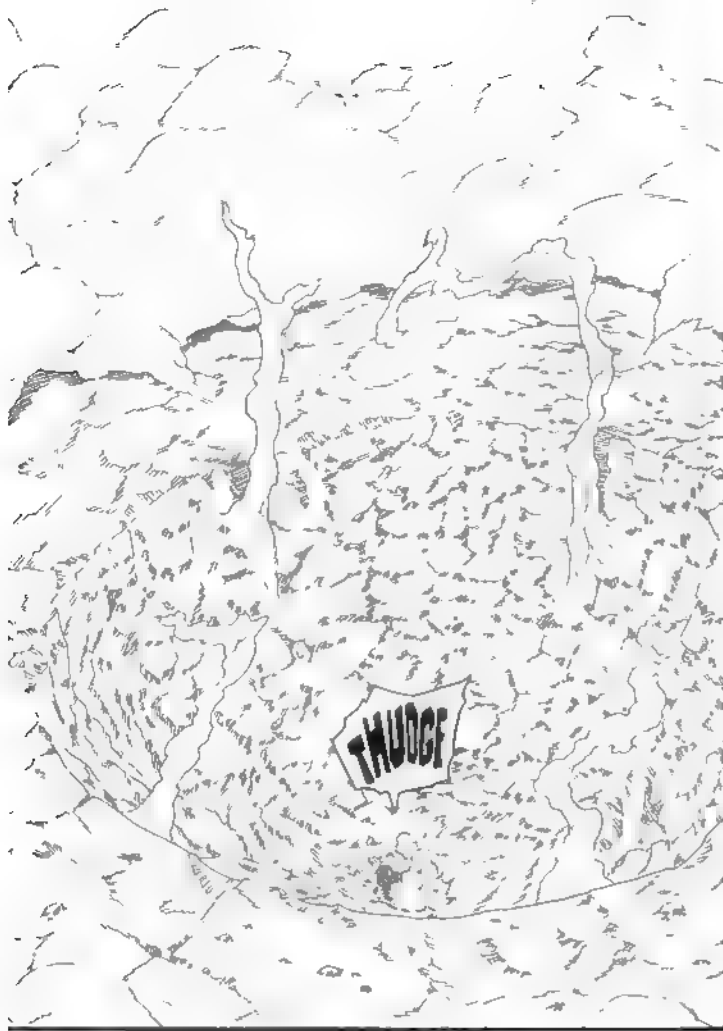




NGAAH!!

NGAAH!!





MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS

○PART 10 ASSISTANT NO. 10: SATÔ ATSUSHIRO

[PROFILE]

- A VETERAN OF ULTRA HIGH-PROFILE PROJECTS LIKE ROOKIES AND DEATH NOTE.
- ONE OF THE FIRST FIFTY PEOPLE EVER TO FINISH HUDSON'S BOMBERMAN, AND HAS THE CERTIFICATE TO PROVE IT!
- LOVES VIDEO GAMES AND KNOWS A BUNCH ABOUT THEM. AN EXPERT AT STREET FIGHTER II.
- ZANGIEF – GIVE HIM AN OPENING AND HE'LL WHIRL YOU AROUND AND BEAT YOU IN AN INSTANT.
- BLANKA – GIVE HIM AN OPENING AND HE'LL ZOOM AT YOU LIKE A CORKSCREW AND KNOCK YOU OUT.
- WOLF – SHOW HIM A WEAKNESS AND HE'LL SPIN YOU AND SLAM YOU DOWN. BUT... WELL, HE'S STILL NEW AT VIRTUA FIGHTER.
- INCREDIBLY SKILLED AT ASSEMBLING PLASTIC MODELS (I.E., GUNDAM). HE'S JUST A DEXTEROUS GUY IN GENERAL!

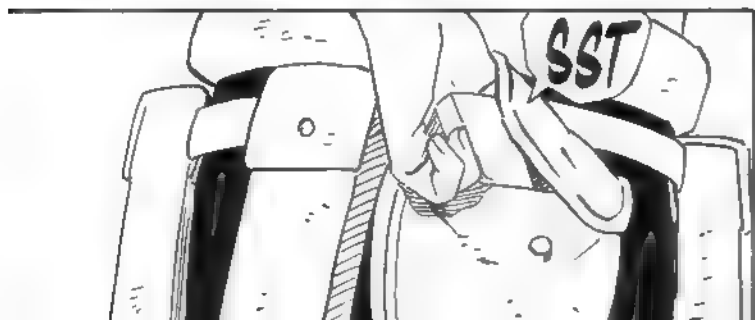
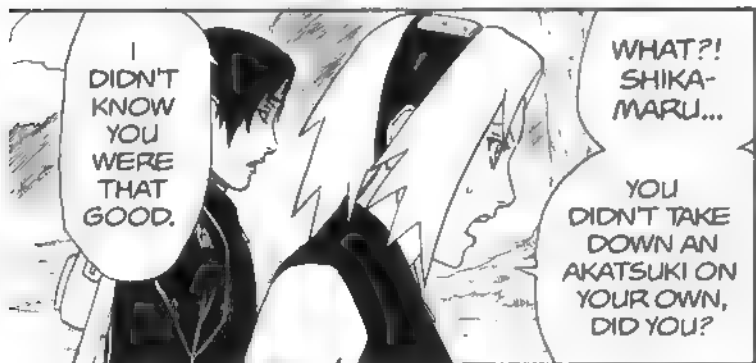
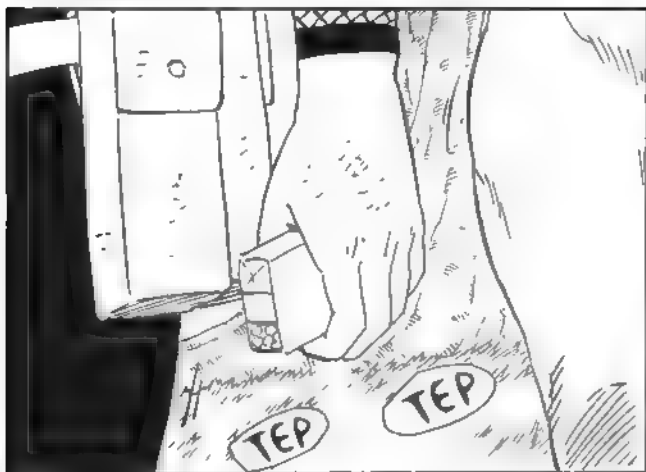


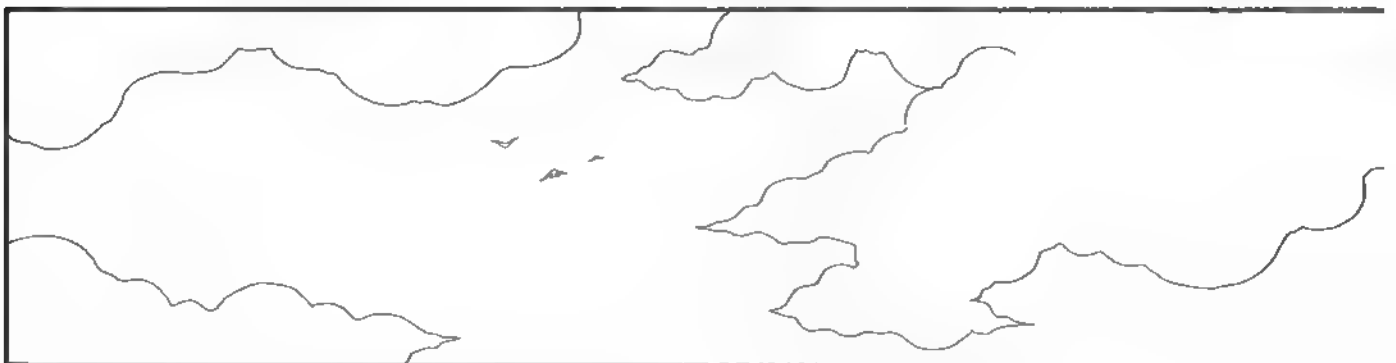
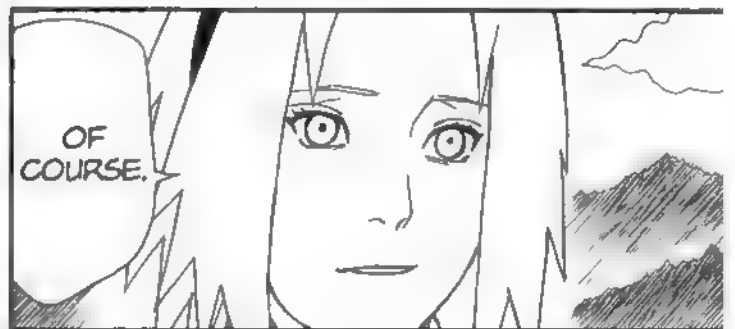


Number 342: The Black King...!

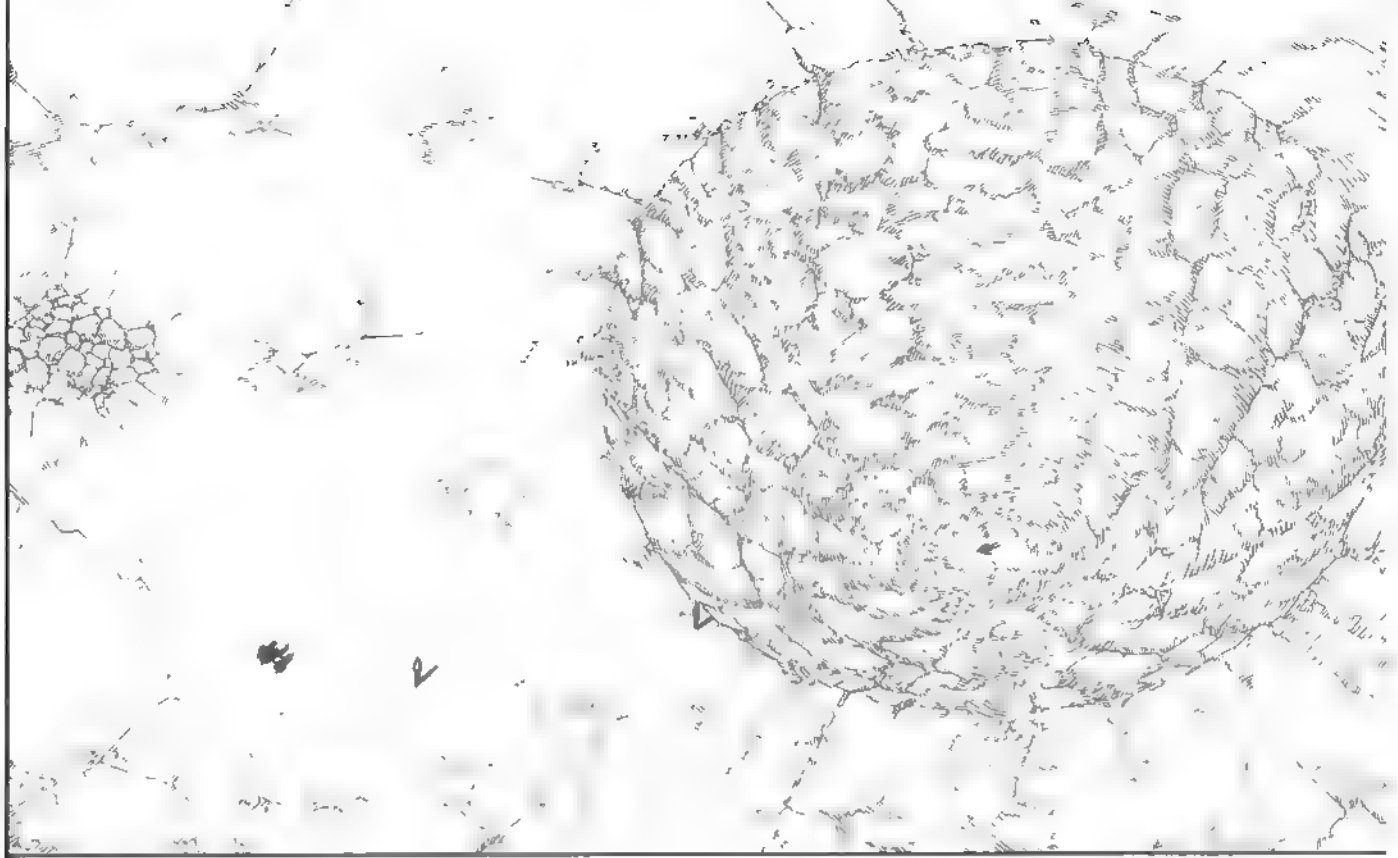


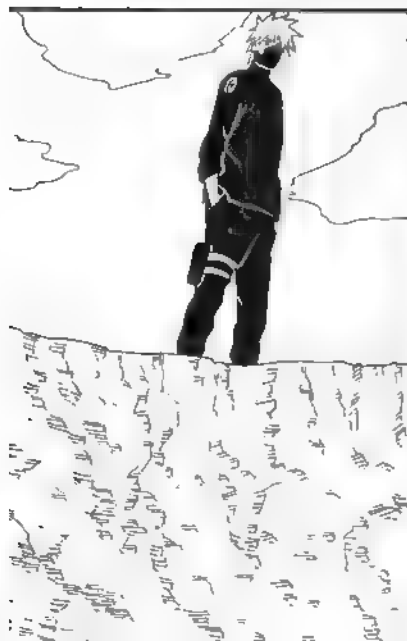
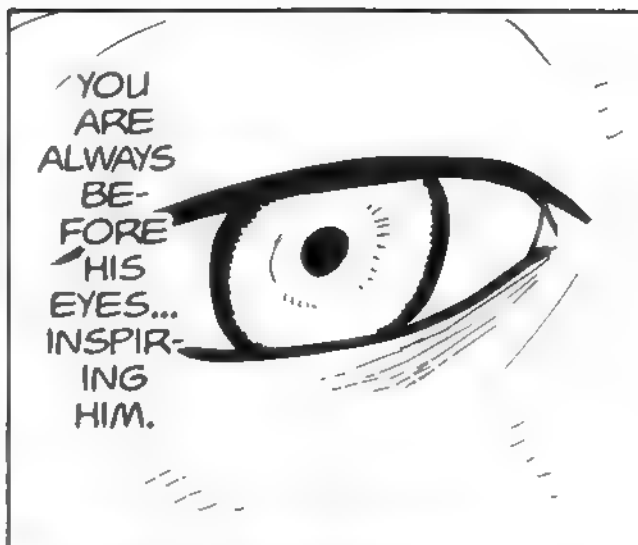






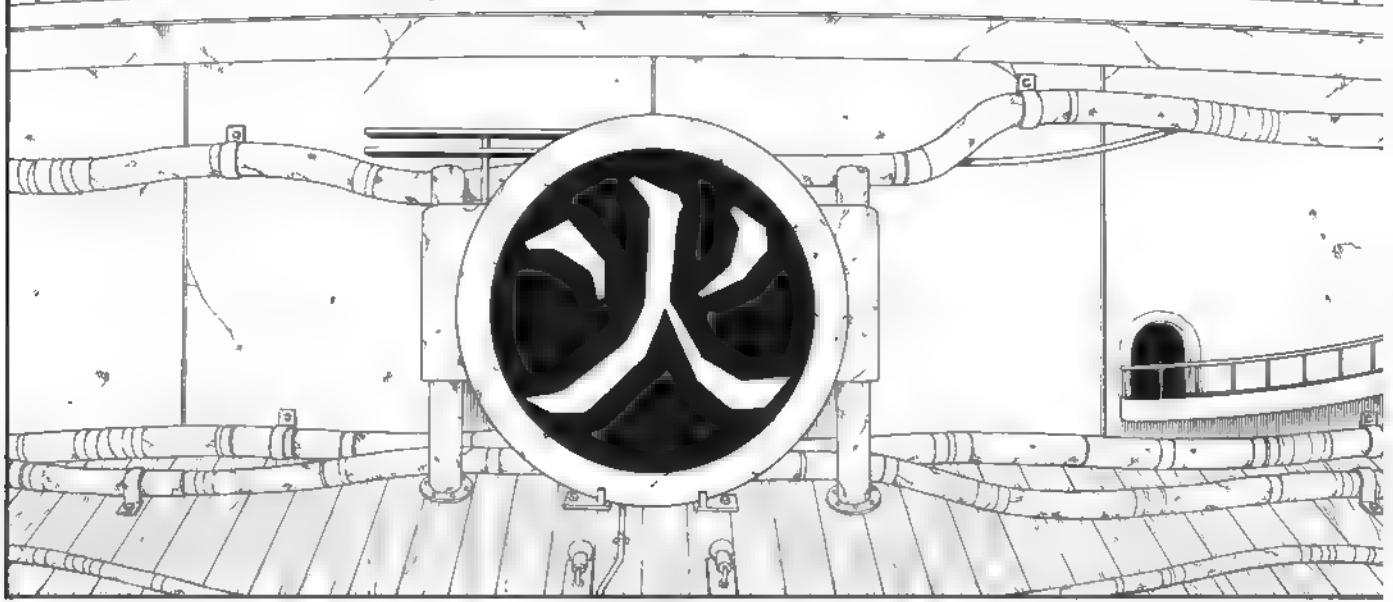






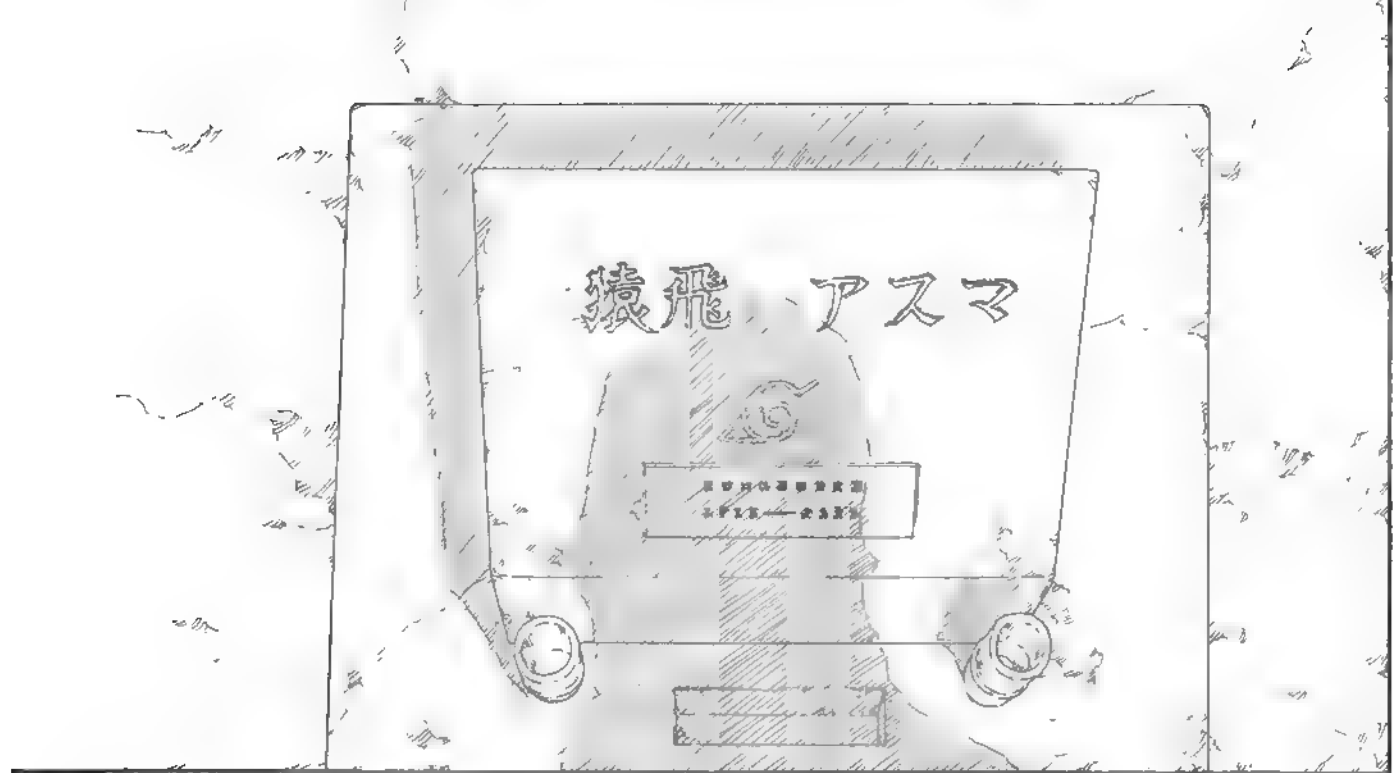




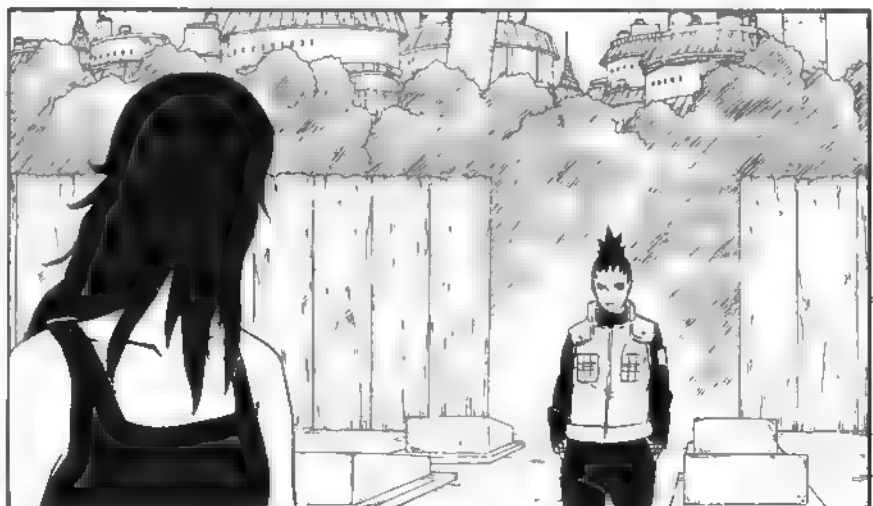


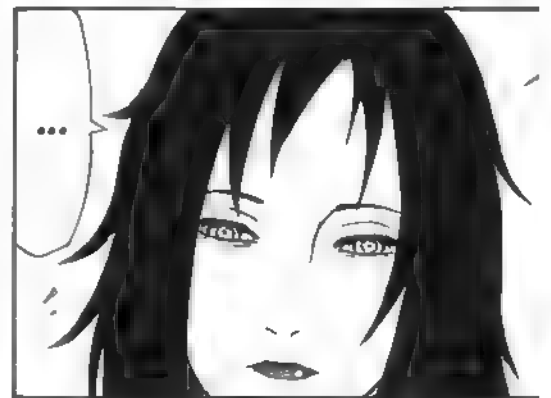
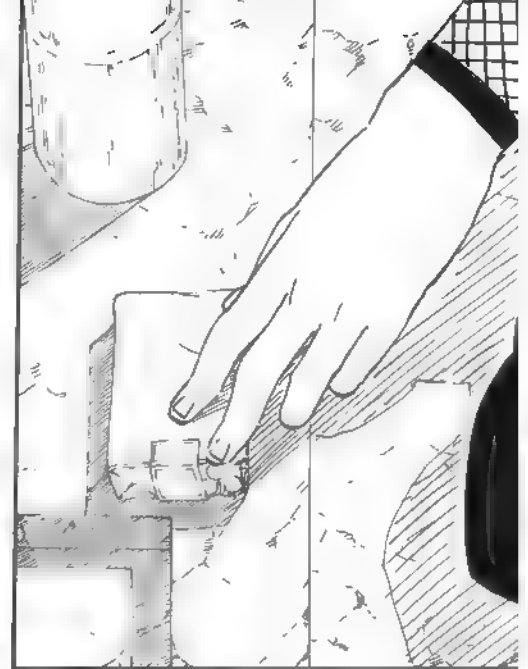
(FIRE)

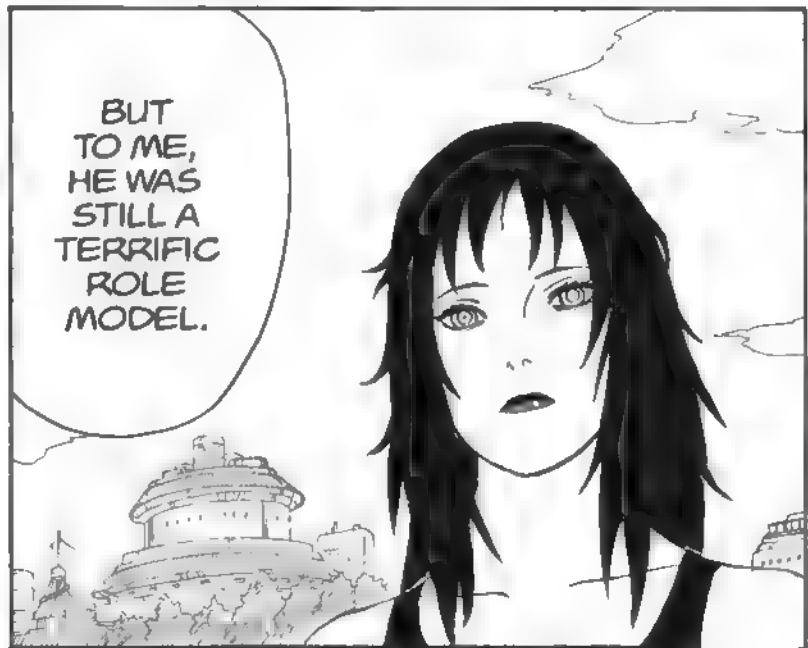


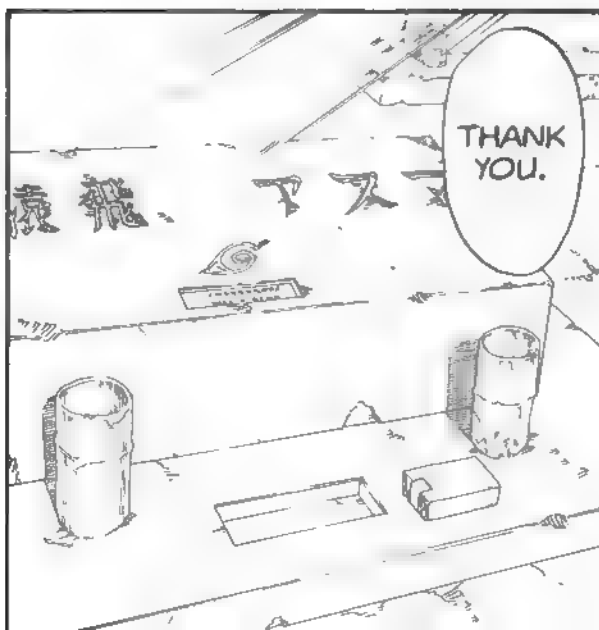


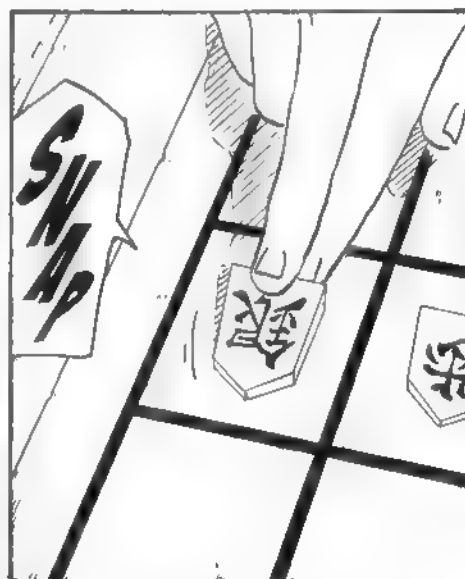
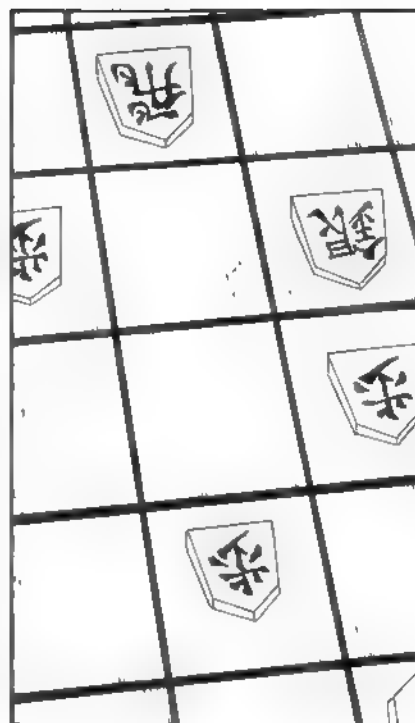
(SARUTOBI ASUMA)

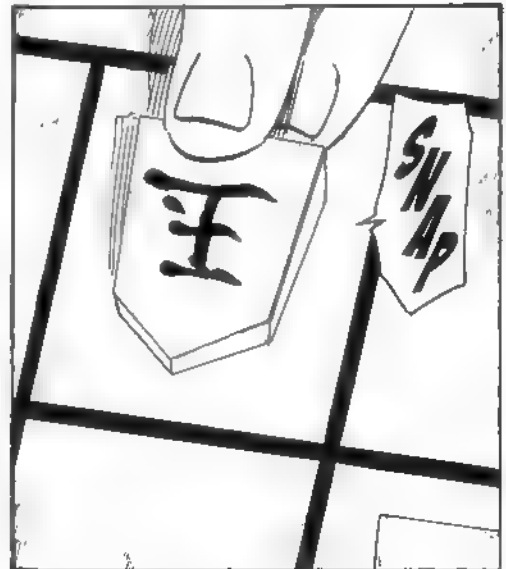
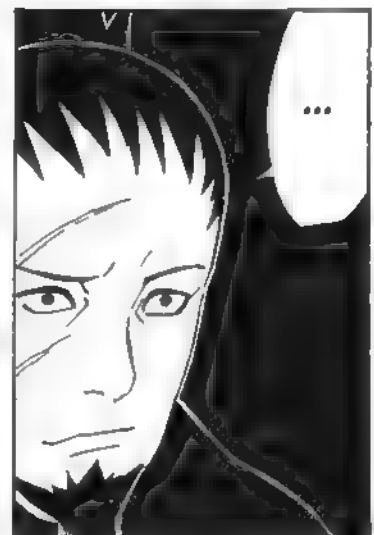
















AND NOT A SINGLE FATAL BLOW.

YOU'RE STILL TOO SOFT-HEARTED.



THEY'RE NOT THE ONES I'M SETTING OUT TO KILL.



DID I GET THEM ALL?

ERF...

UNGH

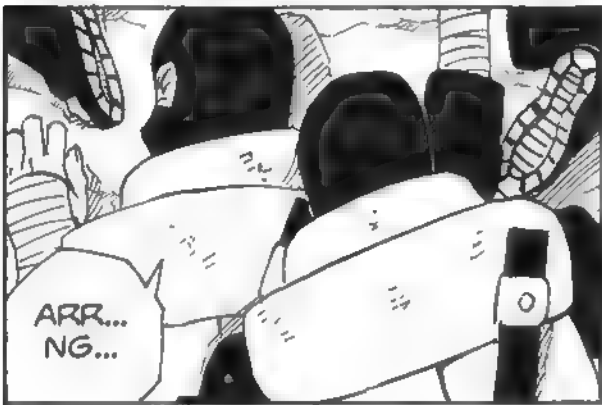
AWOI

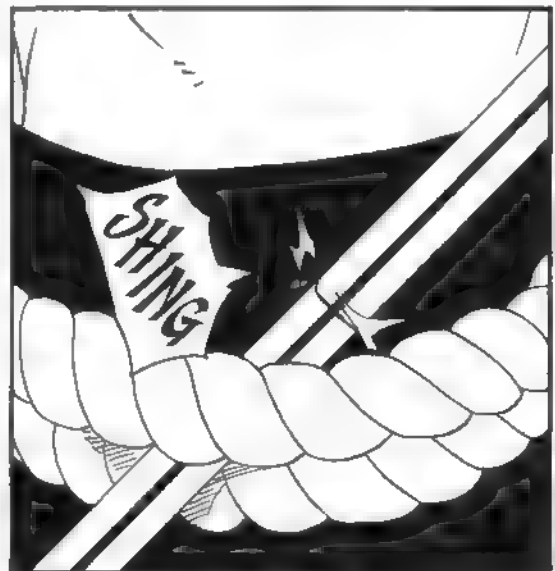
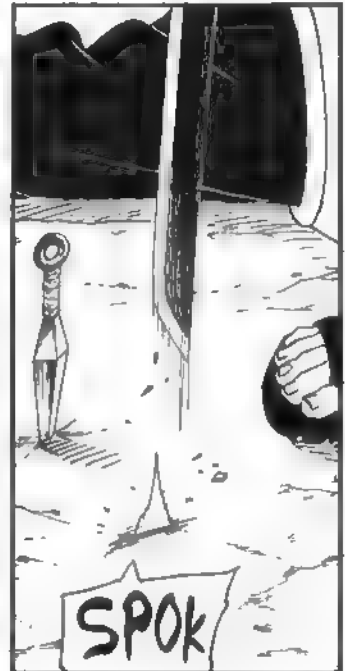




Number 343: Merciless...



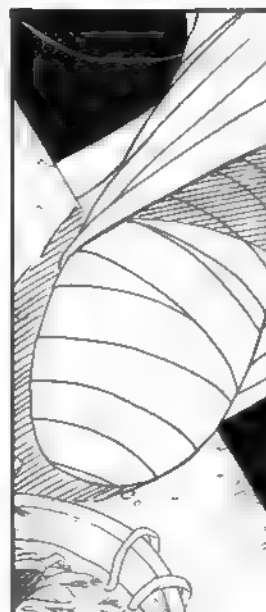








(ICHIRAKU)



THIS NEW
JUTSU OF
YOURS IS
ONLY MEANT
AS A LAST
RESORT!

JUST
PROMISE
ME YOU'LL
THINK
BEFORE
USING IT!

SSS!

YOU MUST'VE
BROKEN HALF
THE BONES IN
YOUR BODY!
IT'S NOT MADE
FOR THIS KIND
OF STRAIN...

THERE ARE
LIMITS TO
WHAT I CAN
PATCH UP!
MEDICAL
NINJUTSU IS
A SCIENCE,
NOT A
MIRACLE
CURE!

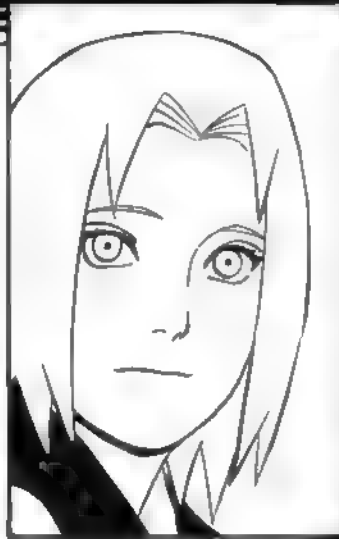
HEH...HEY,
IT'S NO BIG
DEAL SO LONG
AS I'VE GOT
YOU AROUND
TO FIX ME.

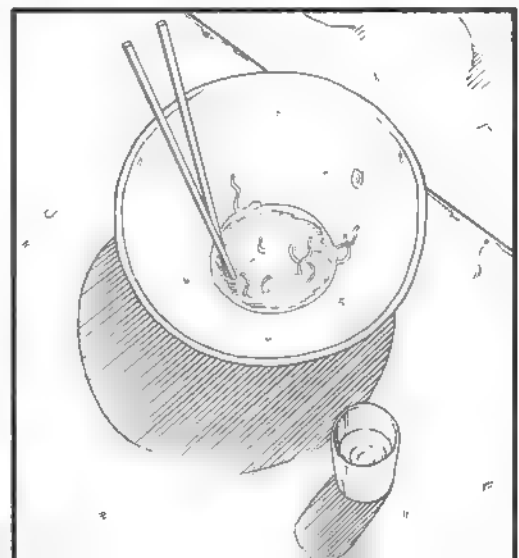
THAT'S
NOT
THE
POINT!

HUH?

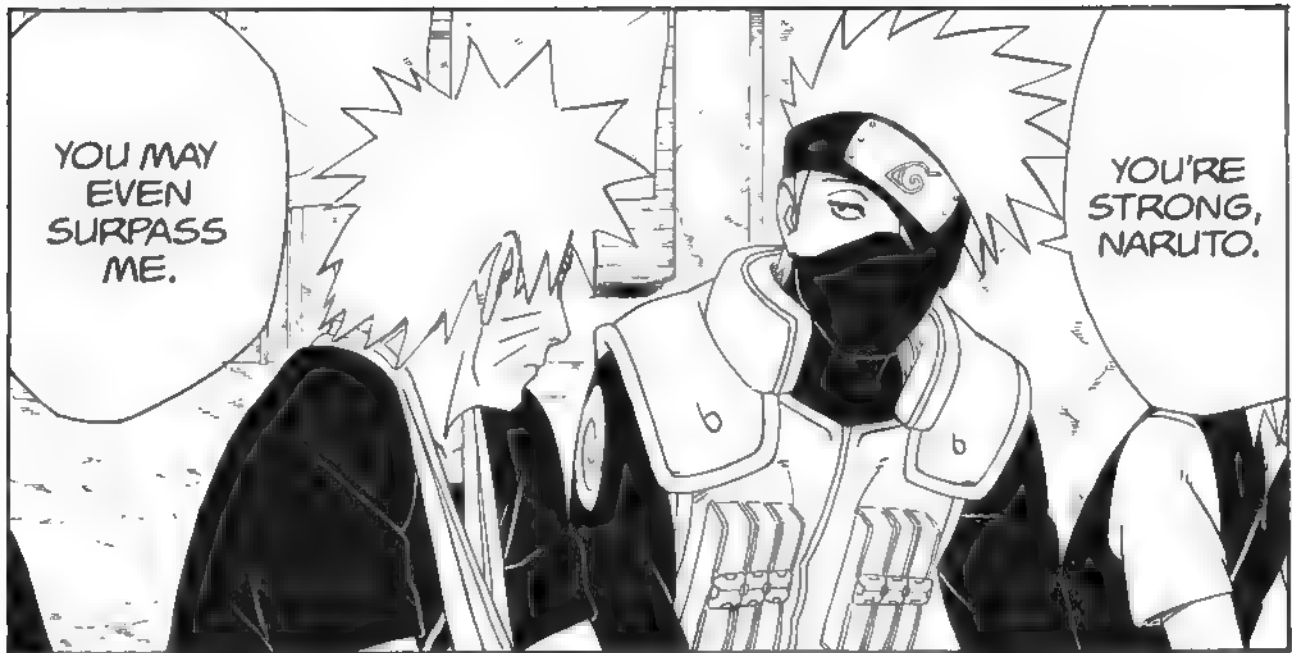
YEAH,
STILL...
I LIKE
THINGS
THE WAY
THEY
ARE
NOW.

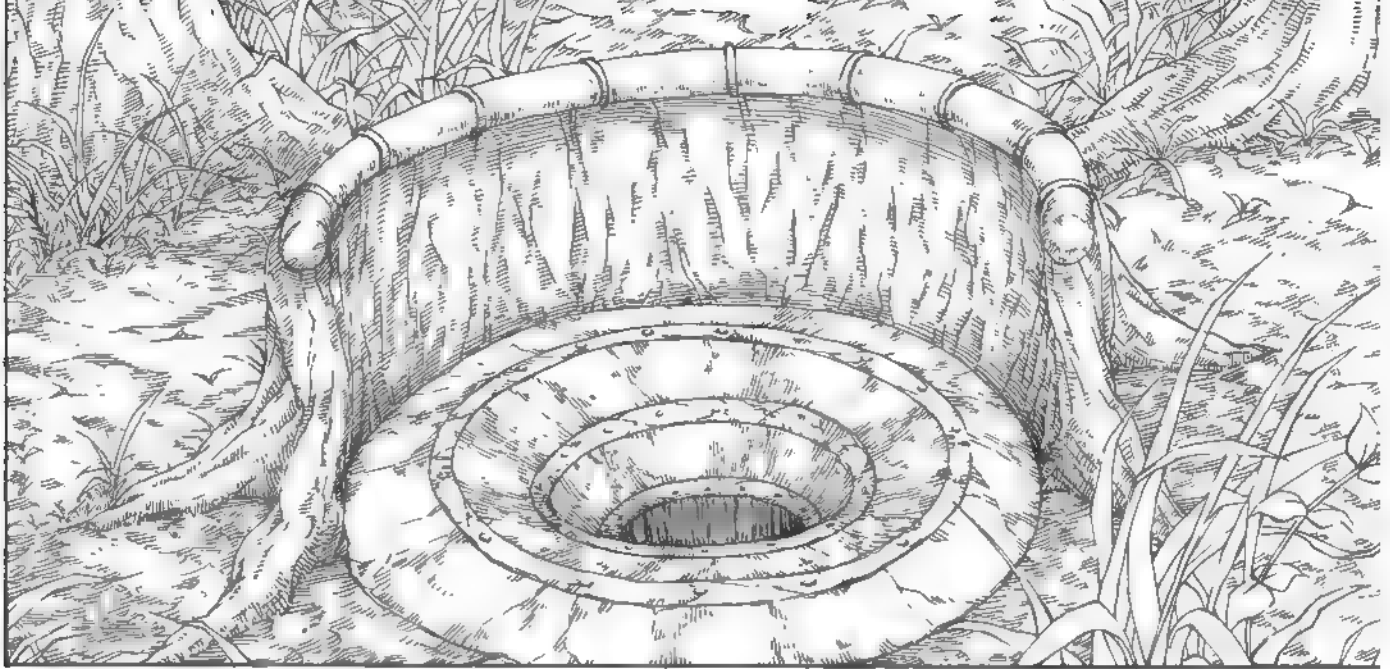
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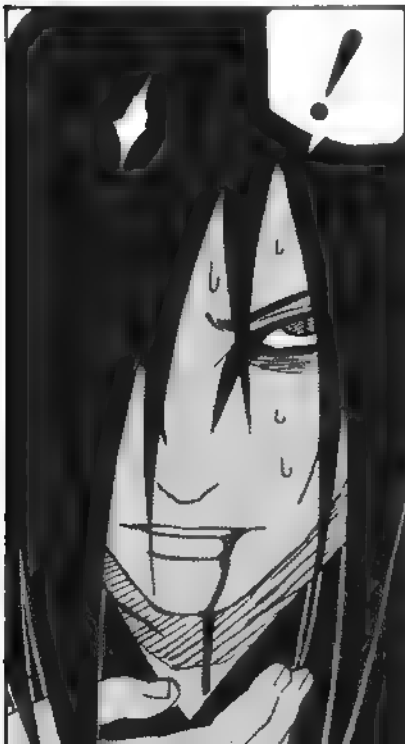




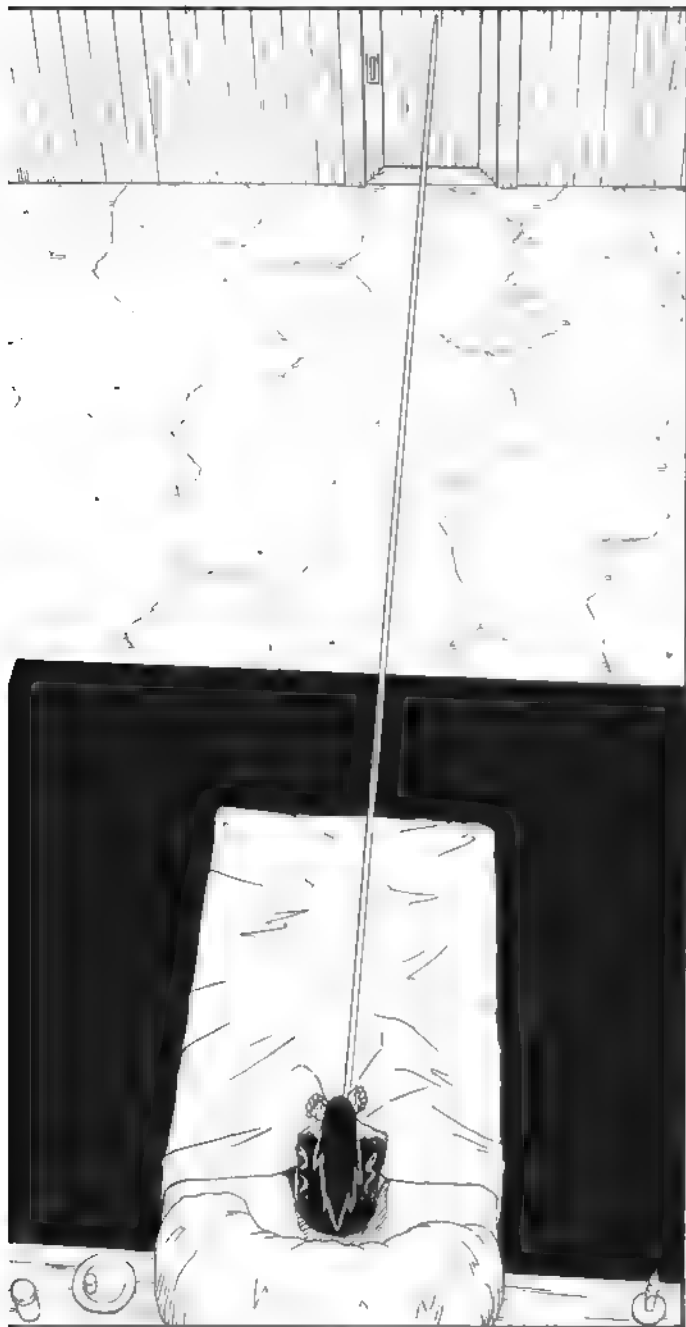












I'VE
NEVER
SEEN IT
CHANGE
ITS FORM
LIKE
THIS.

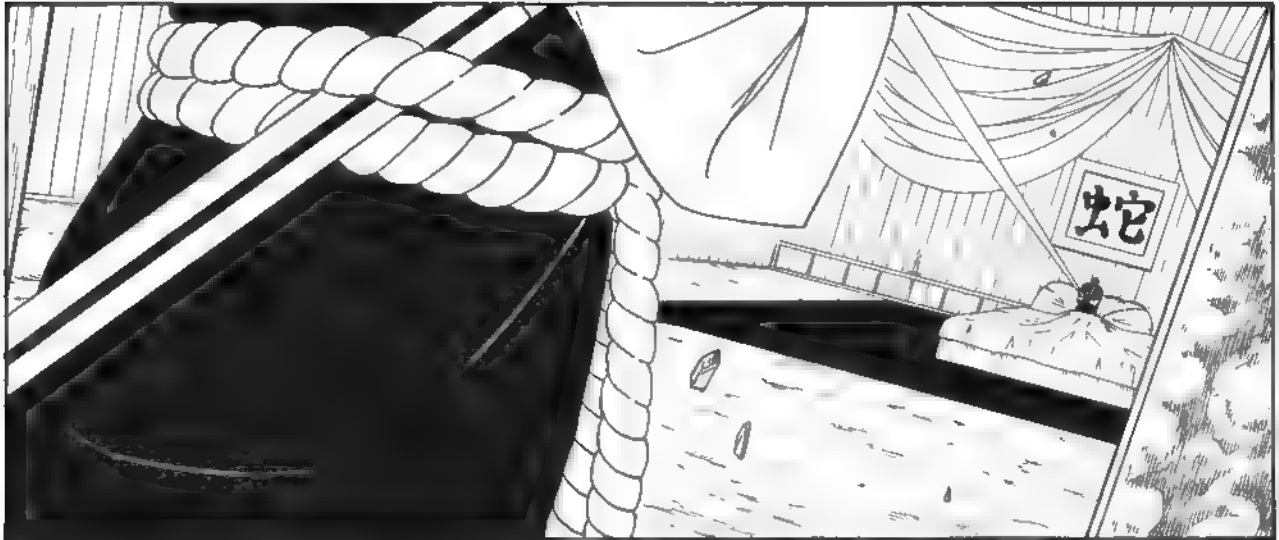
THIS
CHAKRA
...



WHO'S
THERE?







(SNAKE)



MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS

○ PART II ASSISTANT NO. II: SHIRASAKA AKIO

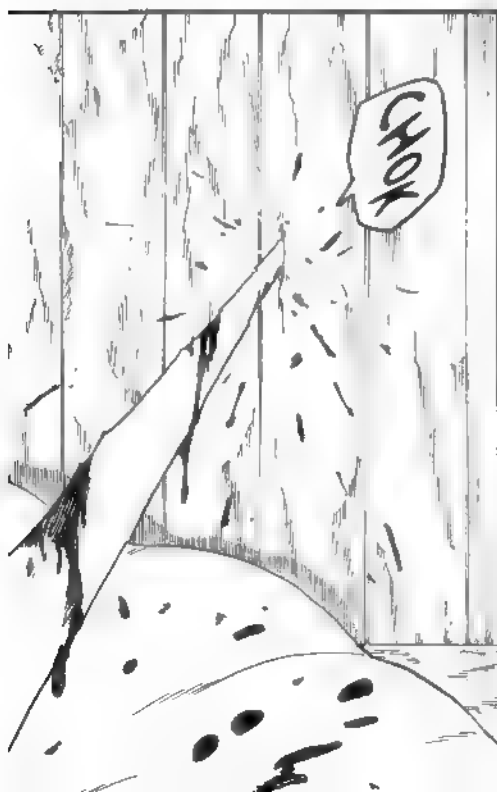
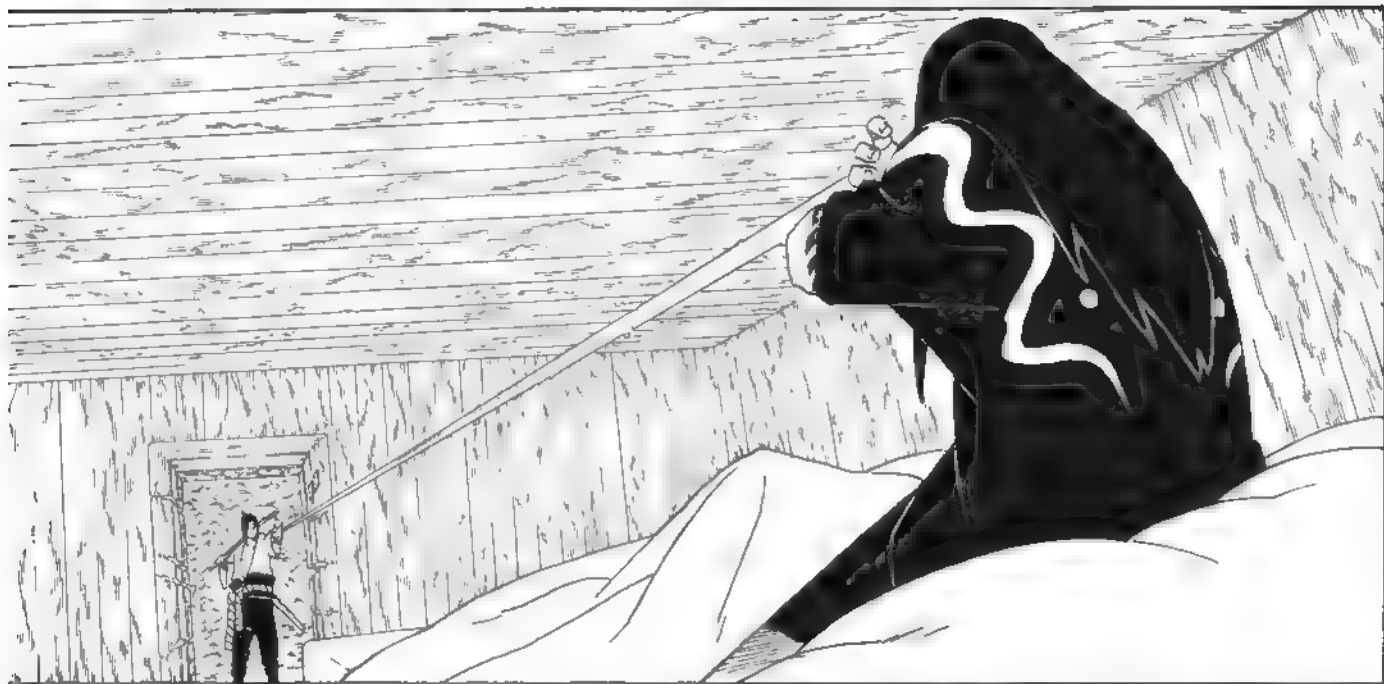


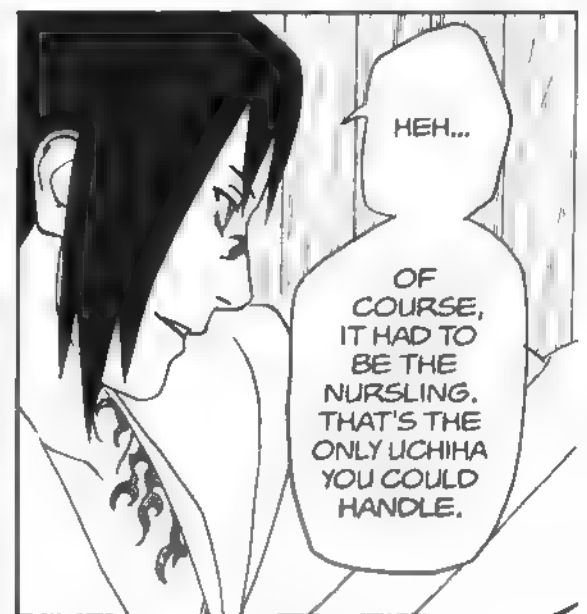
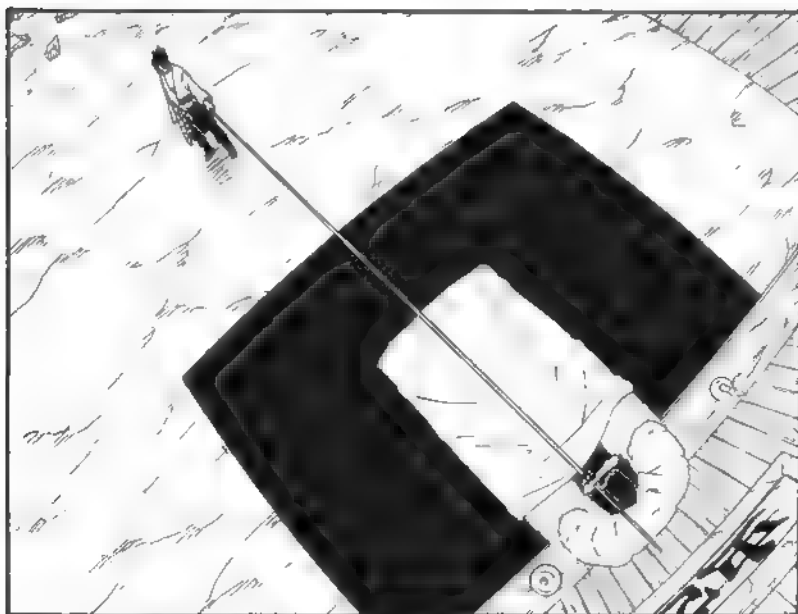
[PROFILE]

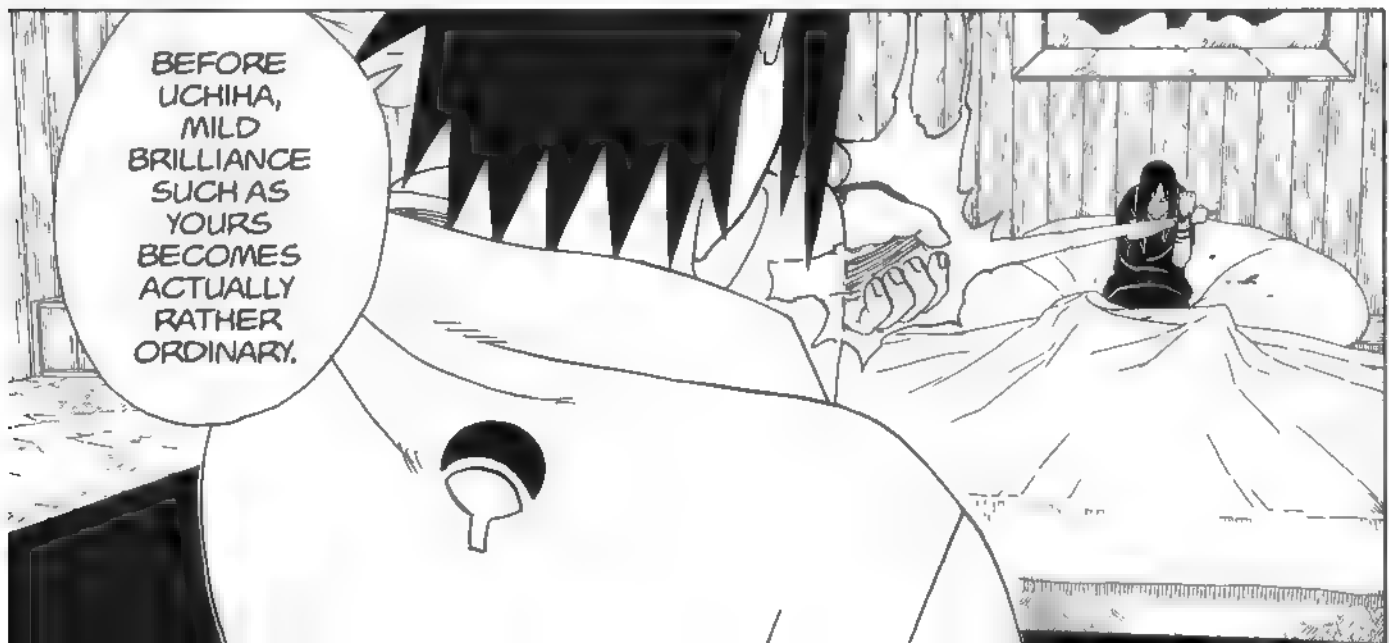
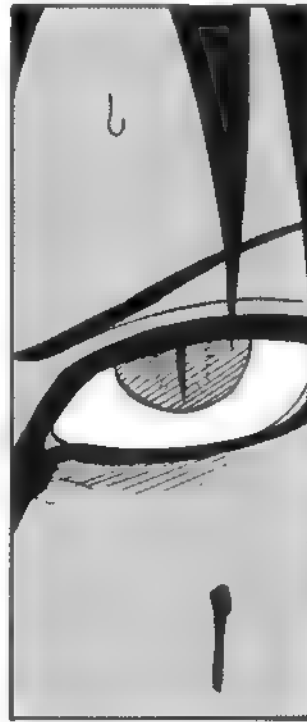
- GREW UP WAY OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS, SO WHEN ASSISTANT NO. 9 (MURAKAMI) STARTS GABBING ABOUT COUNTRY LIFE, HE CHIMES IN WITH GUSTO.
- PERPETUALLY QUIET, HIS LIPS CURLED UP INTO A PLEASANT SMILE—CAUSING ASSISTANT NO. 6 (TASAKA) TO KEEP REPEATING, "I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT! WHAT'S HE THINKING?!"
- WANTS TO DRAW MANGA, BUT TOO EN-TRANCED WITH THE GAME *MONSTER HUNTER* TO STOP PLAYING, LEADING TO TROUBLE WITH ASSISTANT NO. 8 (ITAKURA).
- HE IDOLIZES ASSISTANT NO. 3 (IKEMOTO) LIKE A BROTHER. THAT'S BECAUSE THEY SHARE THE SAME PASSION FOR *MON-STER HUNTER*.
- HE'S A WHIZ AT DRAWING, AND THAT'S WHY HE'S KISHIMOTO'S FAVORITE.



Number 344: The Snake...









AS AN
UCHIHA,
ALL I
SEE IS A
MISERABLE
WRETCH.



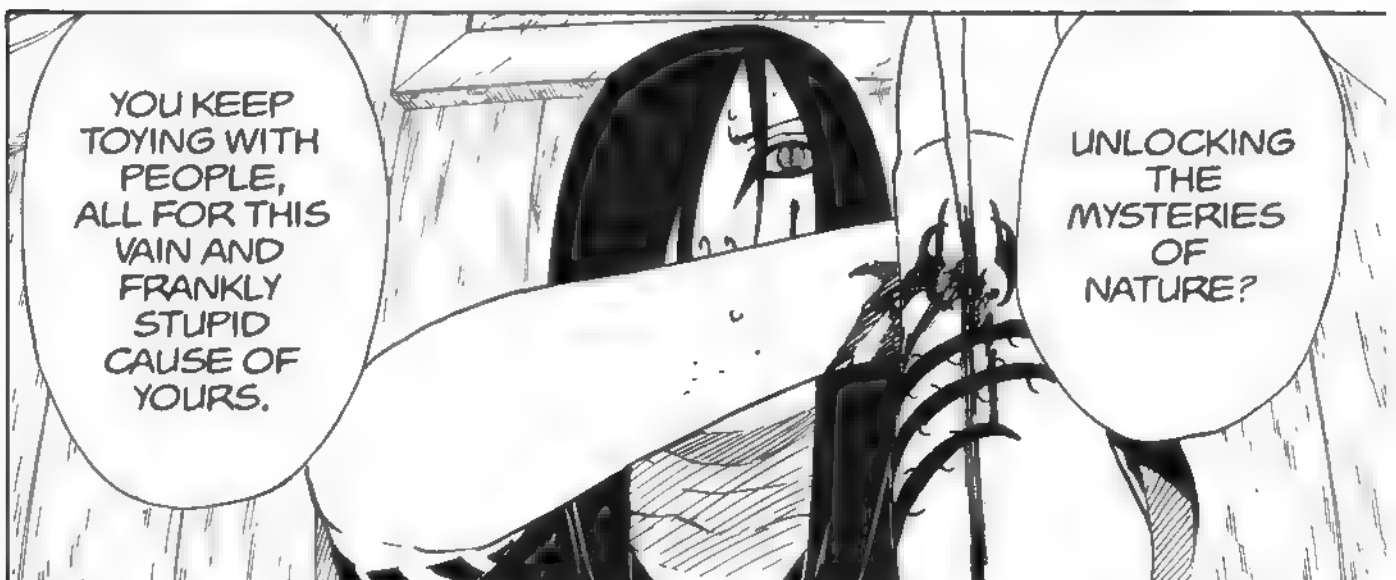
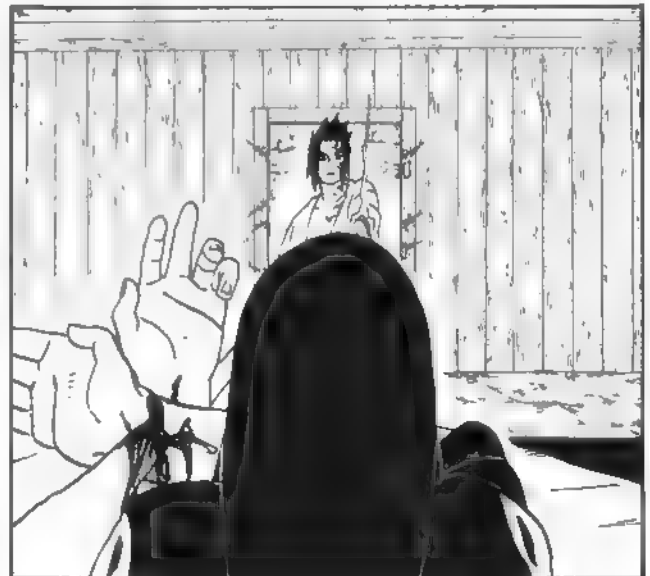
FILLING
YOURSELF
UP WITH
MEDICINES,
LEAPING
FROM BODY
TO BODY...

AND THE WAY
YOU COVET
THE POWER
OF UCHIHA
...IT'S
REVOLTING.



I MEAN,
WHAT
ARE YOU
AFTER?

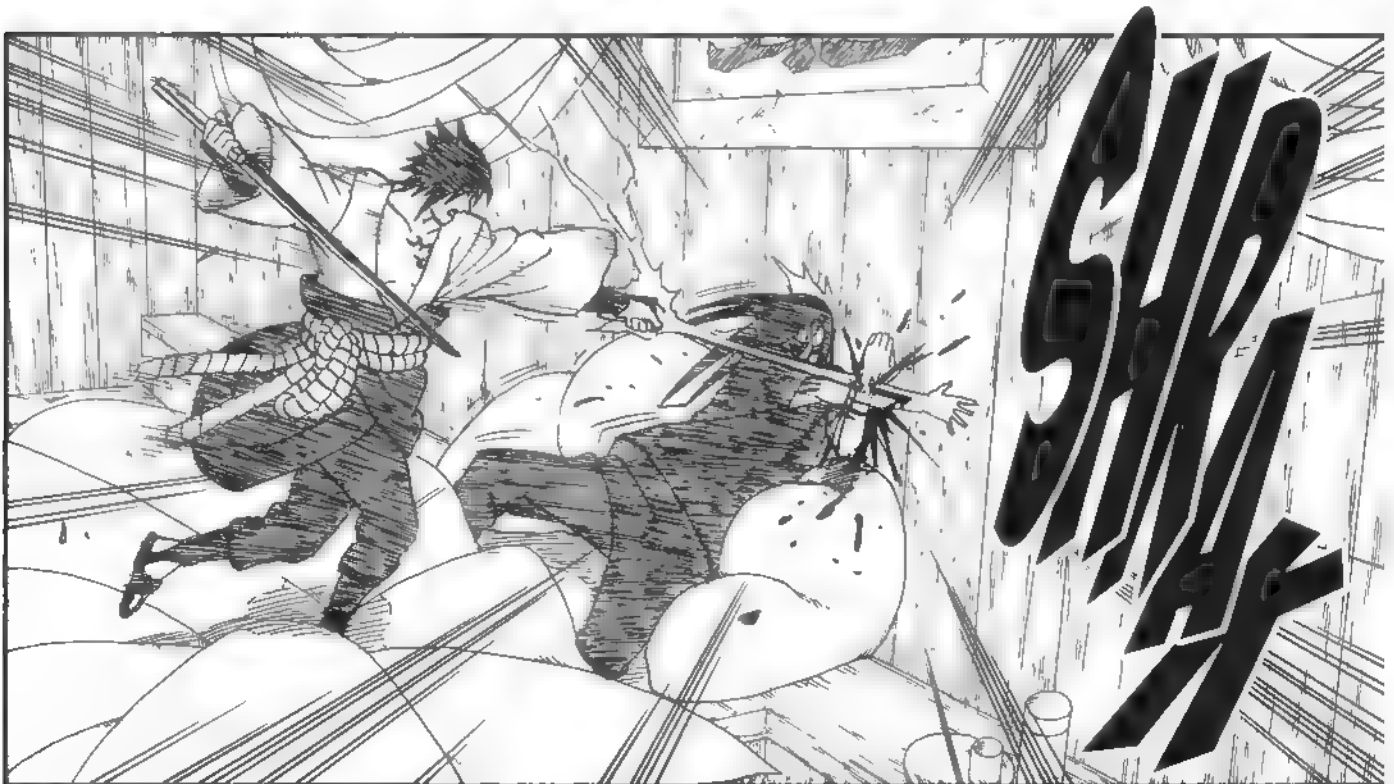
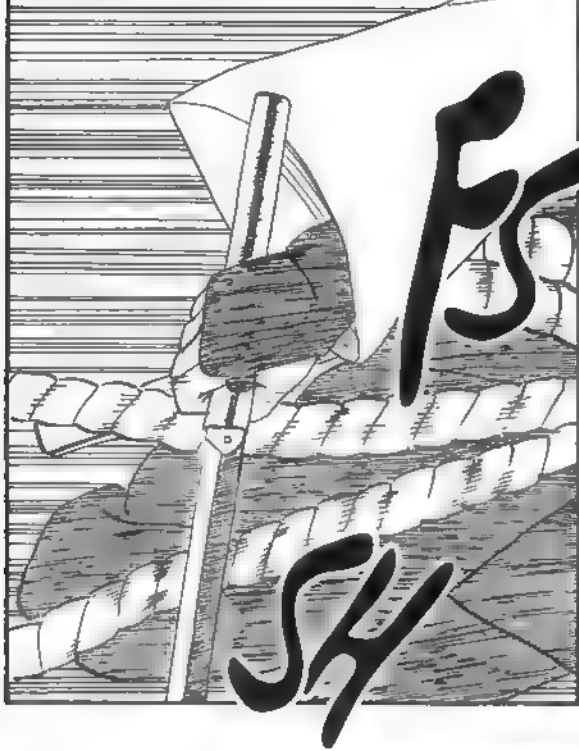
AND
ANYWAY,
I DON'T
LIKE
YOUR
STYLE.



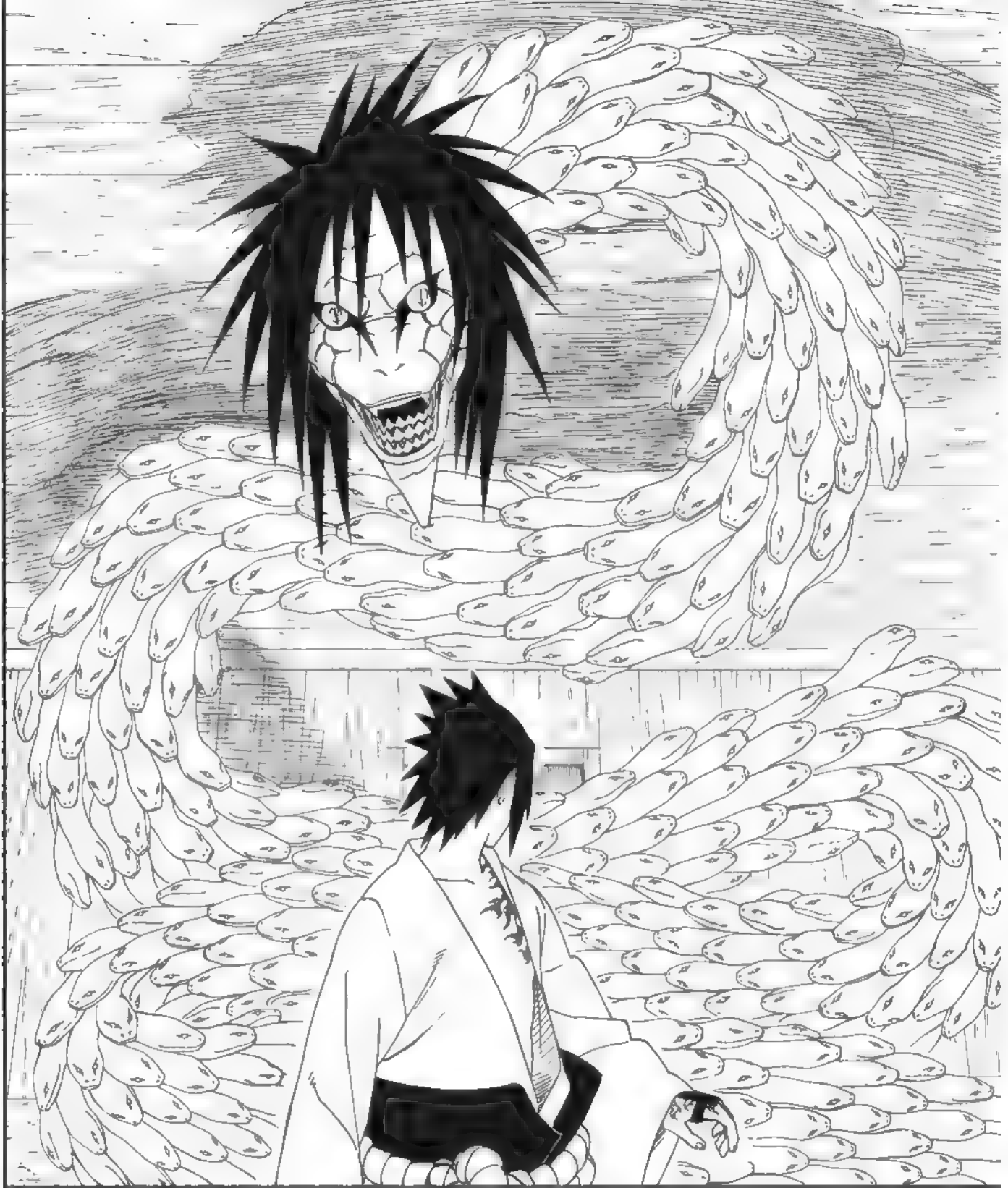
YOU KEEP
TOYING WITH
PEOPLE,
ALL FOR THIS
VAIN AND
FRANKLY
STUPID
CAUSE OF
YOURS.

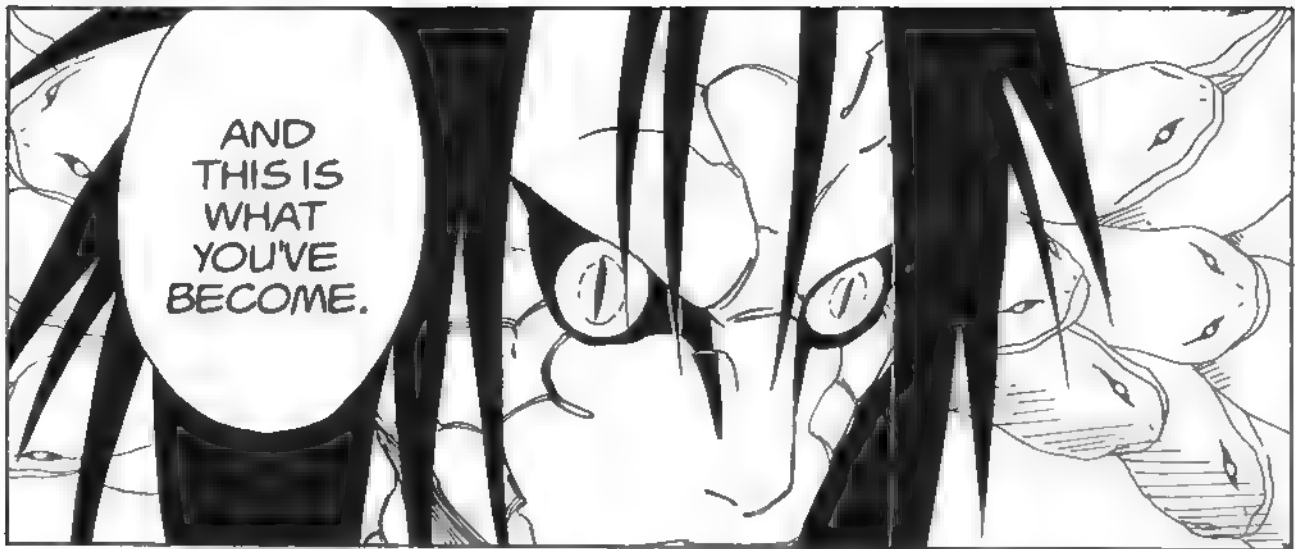
UNLOCKING
THE
MYSTERIES
OF
NATURE?

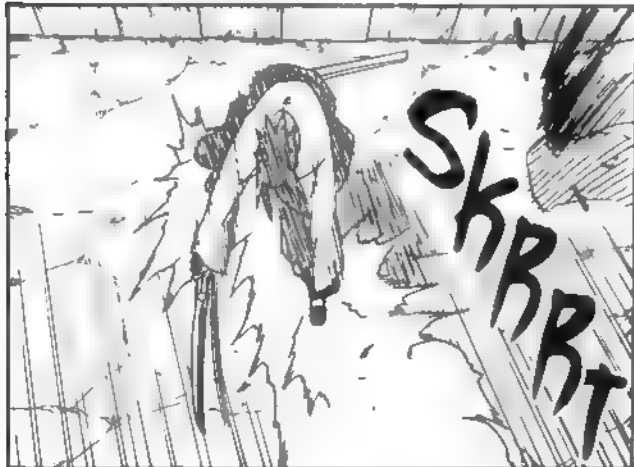
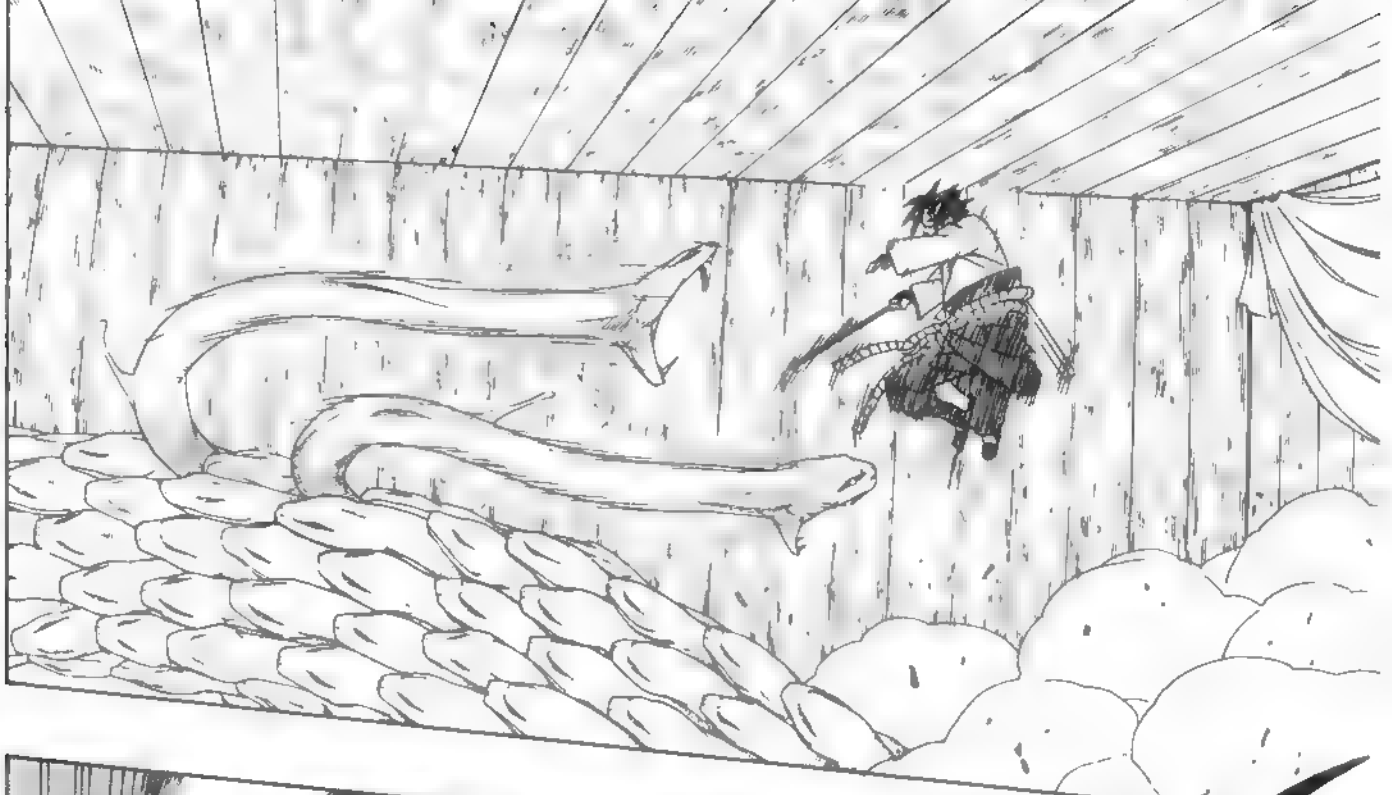


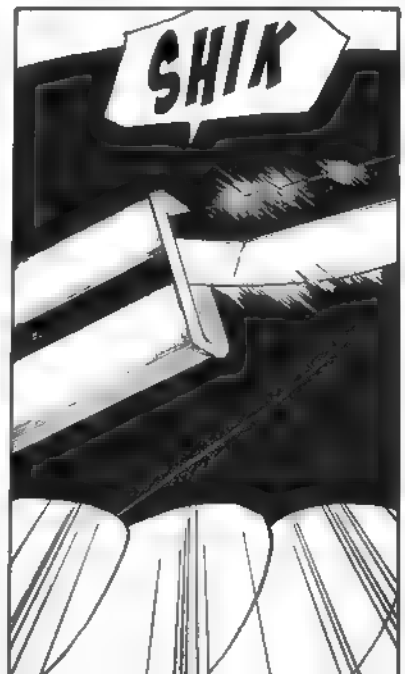












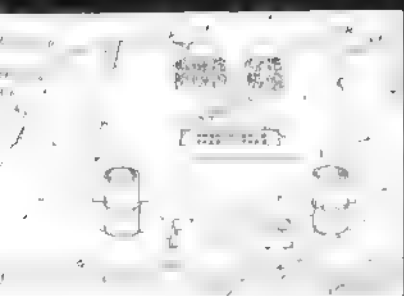




READ
THIS
WAY

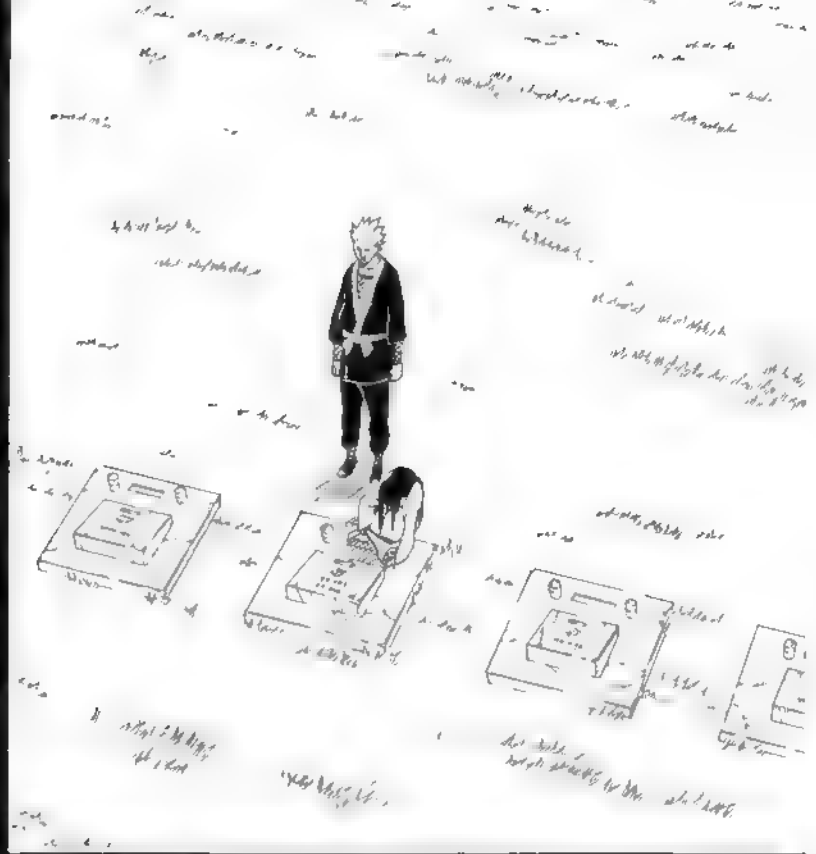


SASUKE!!



...
READY
TO TAKE
TO THE
SKY!

...THE
SNAKE
IS PREY
BECAUSE
THAT BIRD
IS A
HAWK...





GOOD
LUCK
AND...
RENEWAL
...



WHEN
WOULD
THAT...
BE?

HEY,
MAYBE
SOMEDAY
YOU'LL
MEET
THEM
AGAIN.

IT MUST BE
KARMA FOR YOU
TO FIND IT HERE
BY YOUR PARENTS'
GRAVESTONE.
MAYBE IT MEANS
THEY'VE BEEN
REBORN
SOMEWHERE?

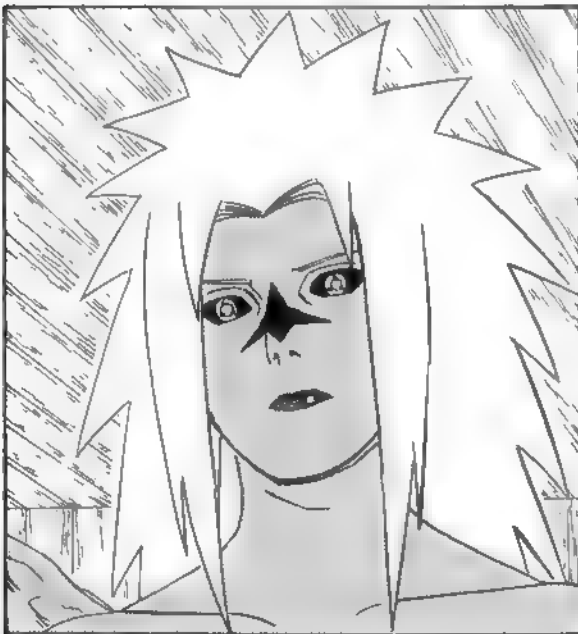
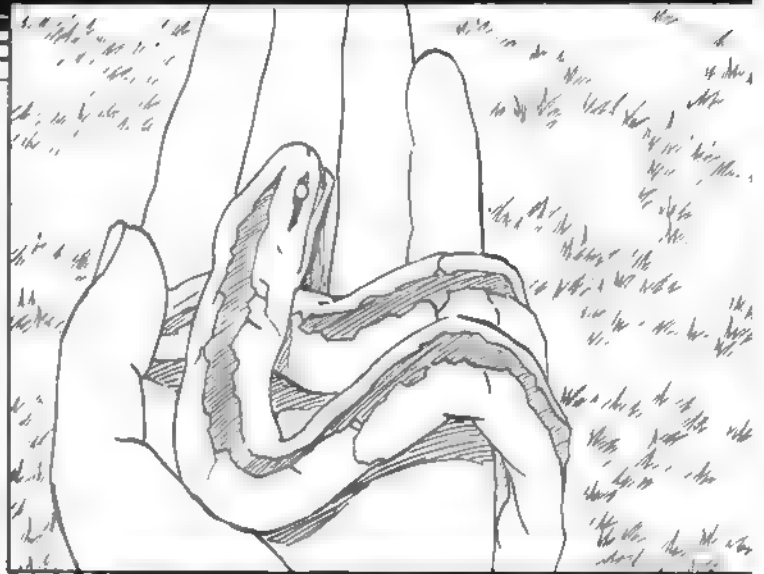
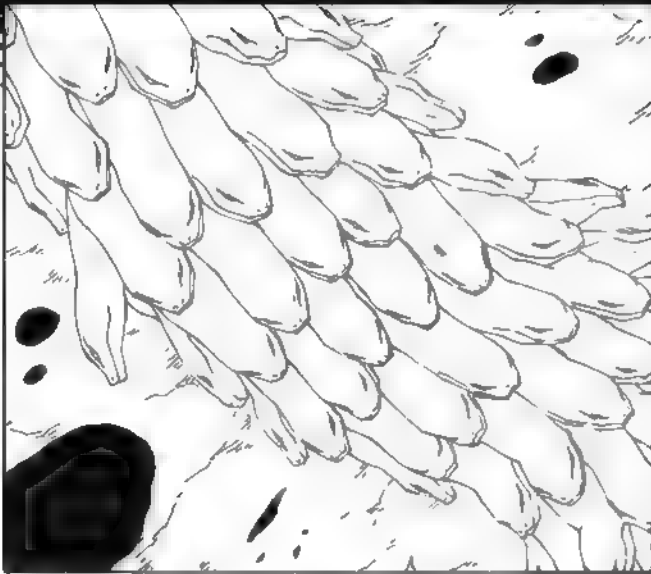


SORRY,
GOT NO
CLUE
FOR YOU
THERE.

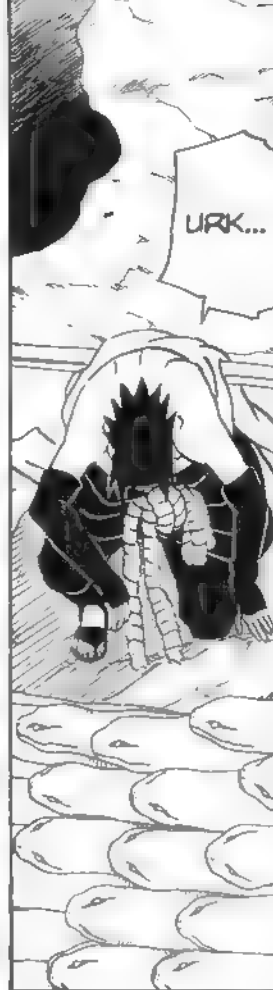
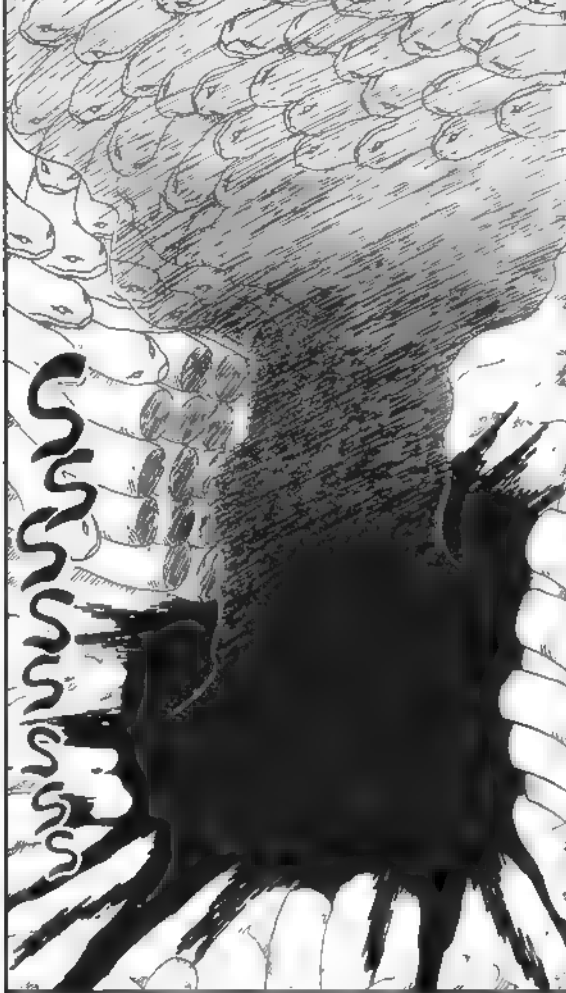


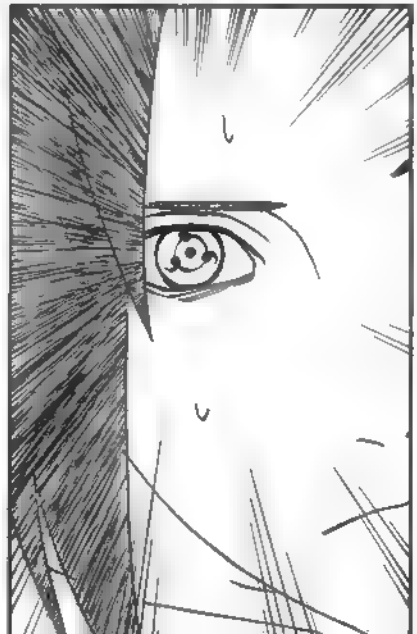
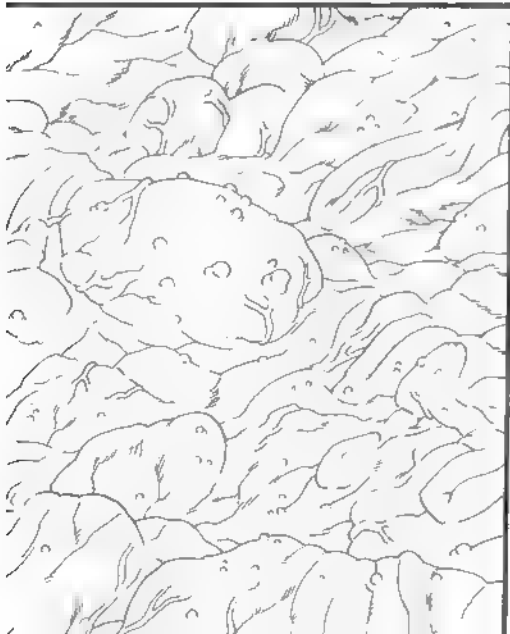
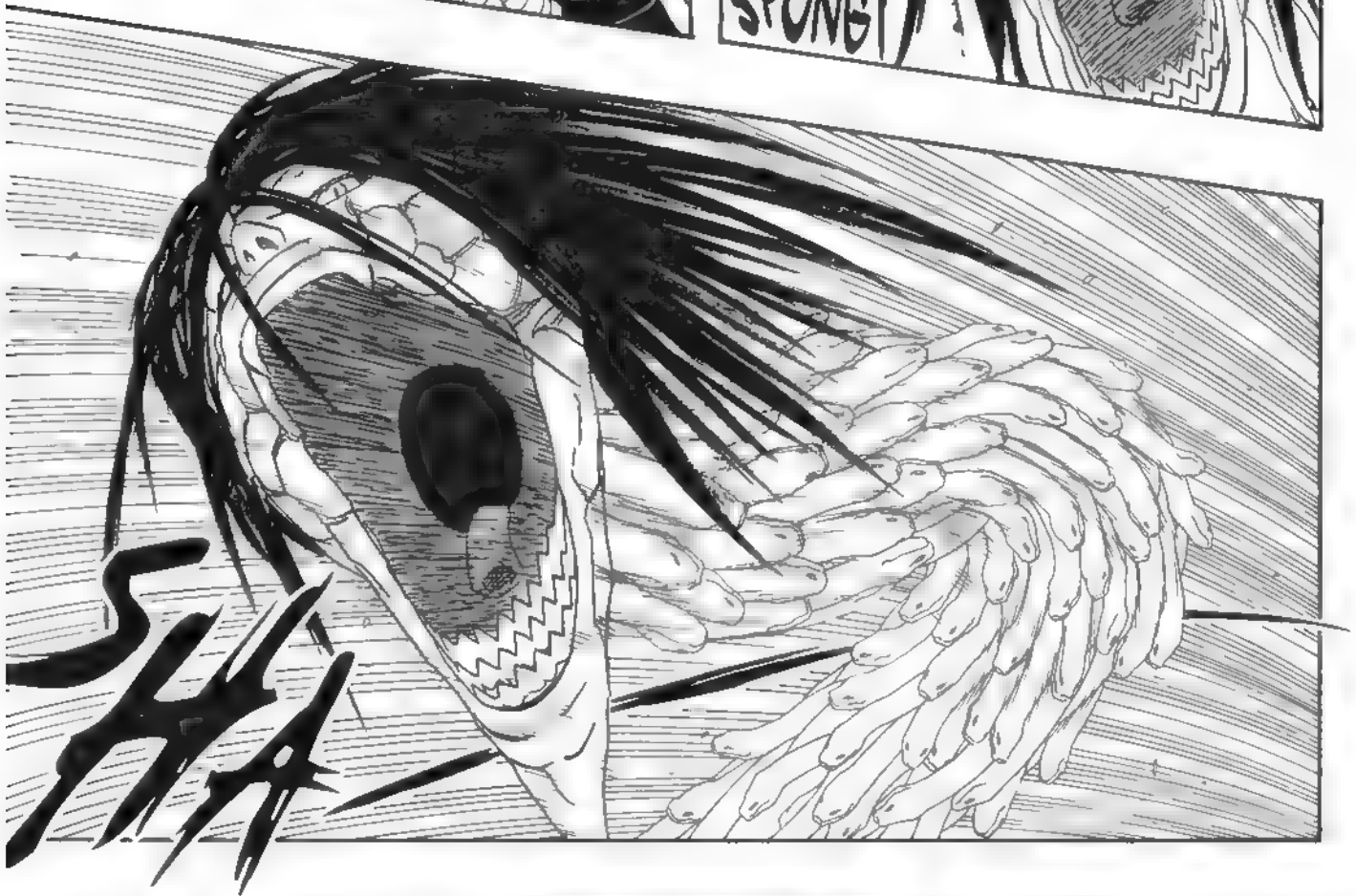
NARUTO



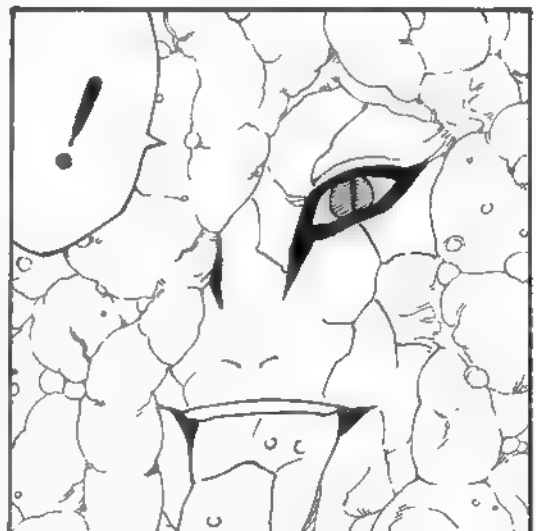
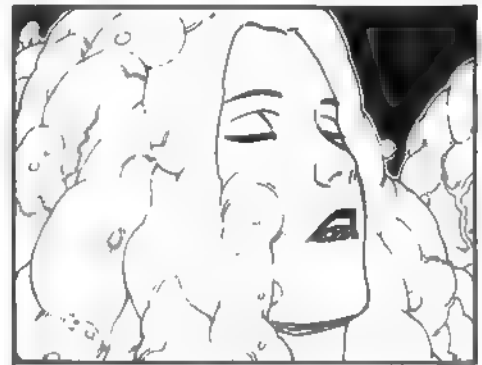
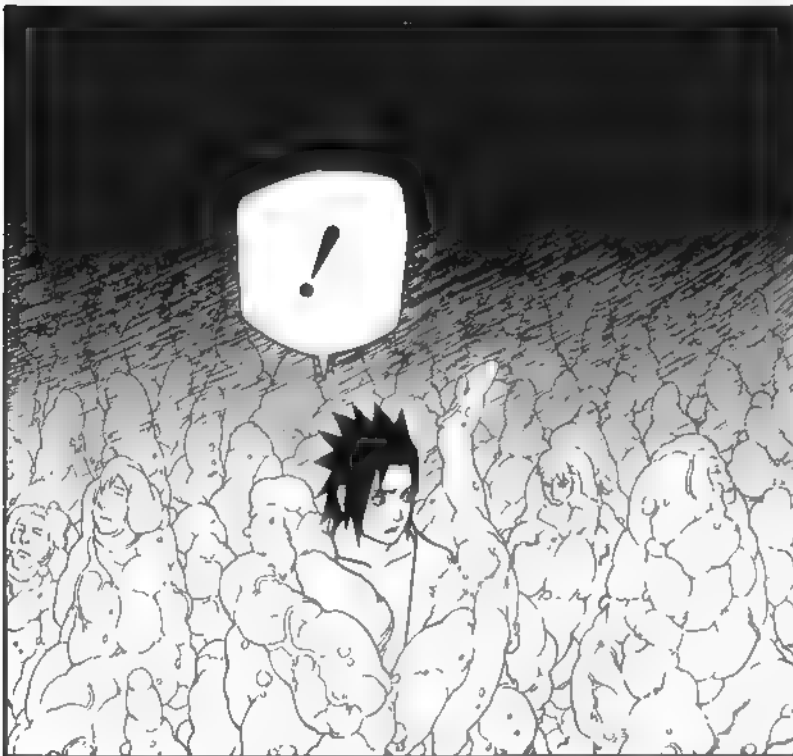


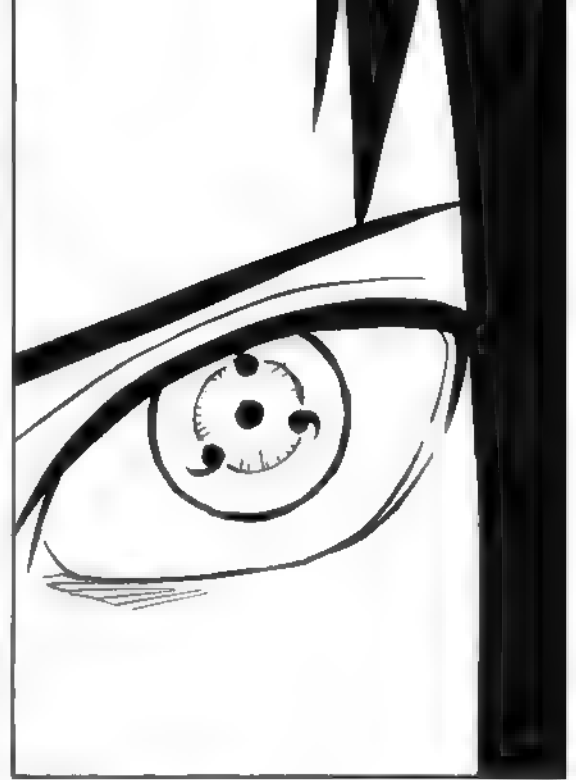












HOW
CAN
THIS BE
POSSI-
BLE...

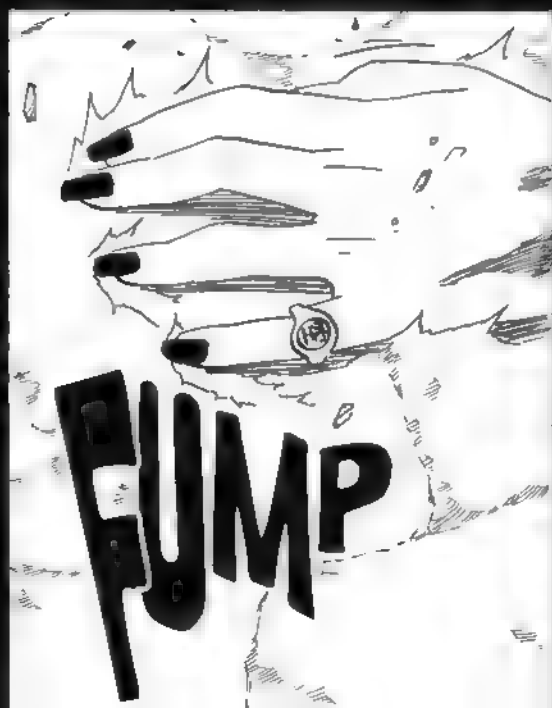
HOW
CAN THE
GENJUTSU
PARALYSIS
BIND ME...

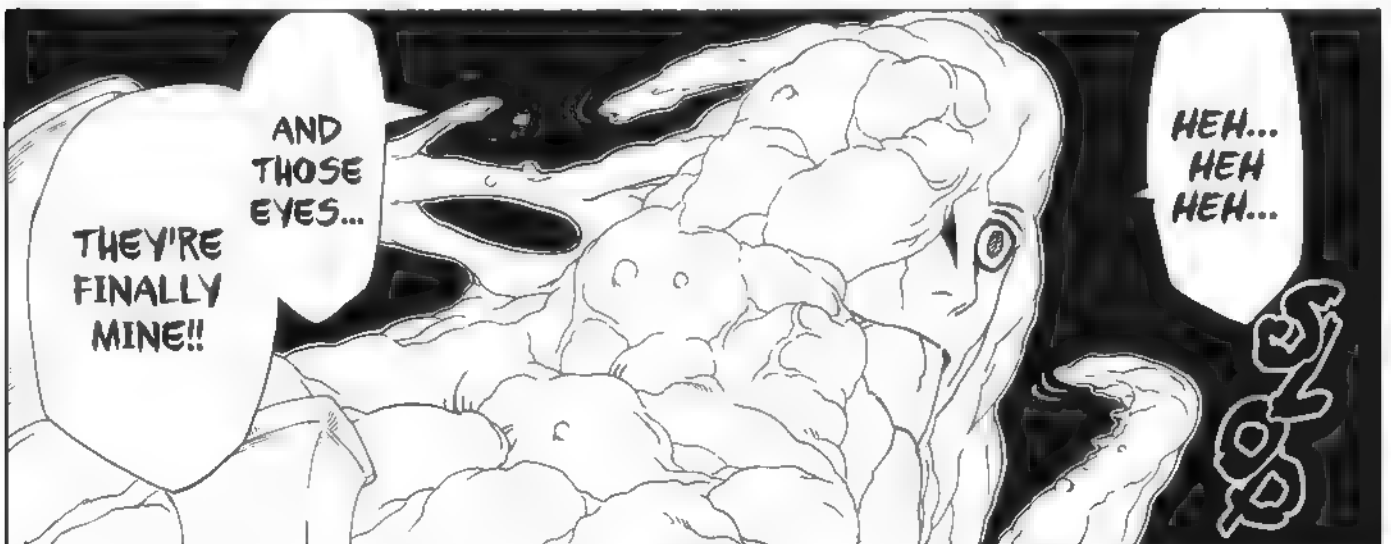


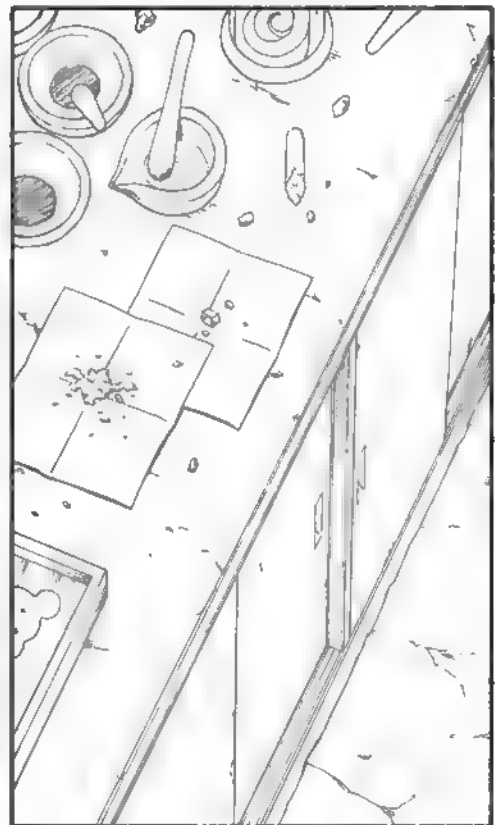
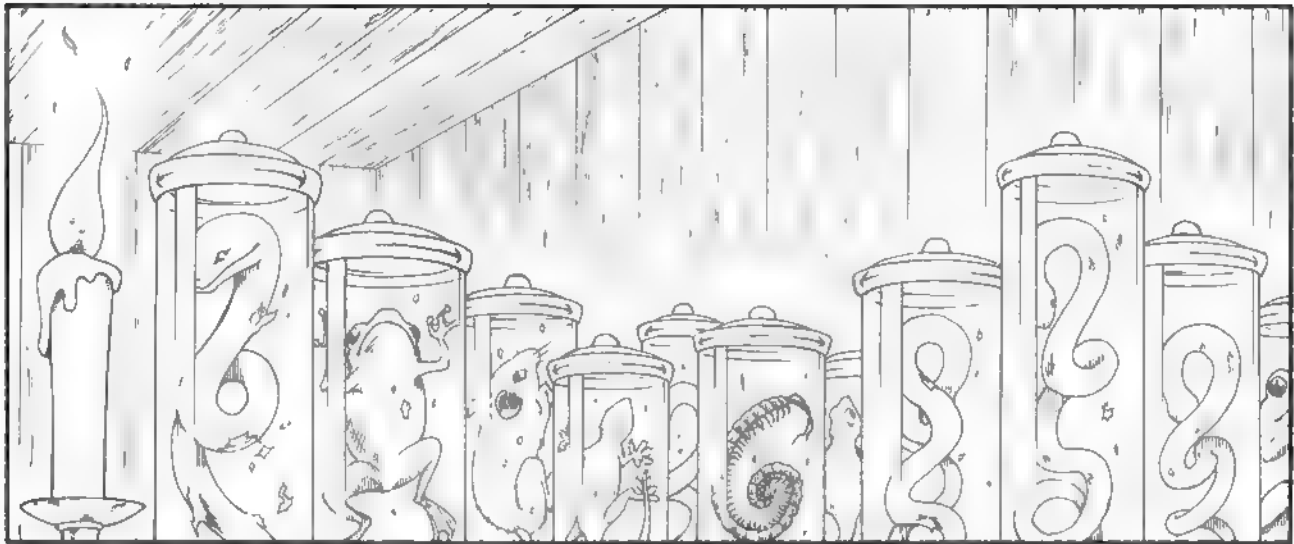
MAGNIF-
ICENT.

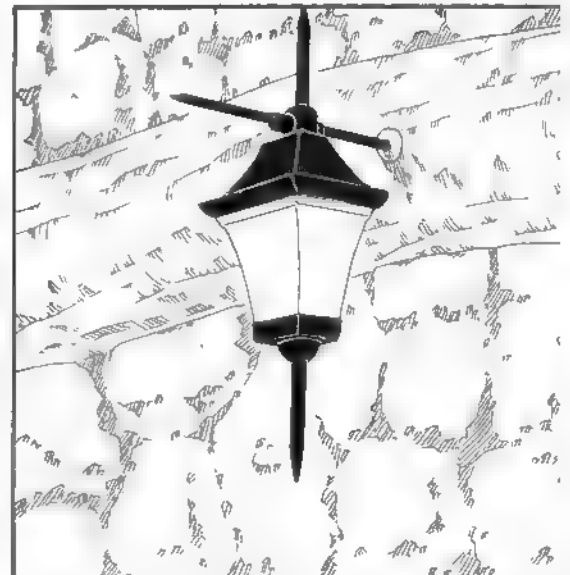
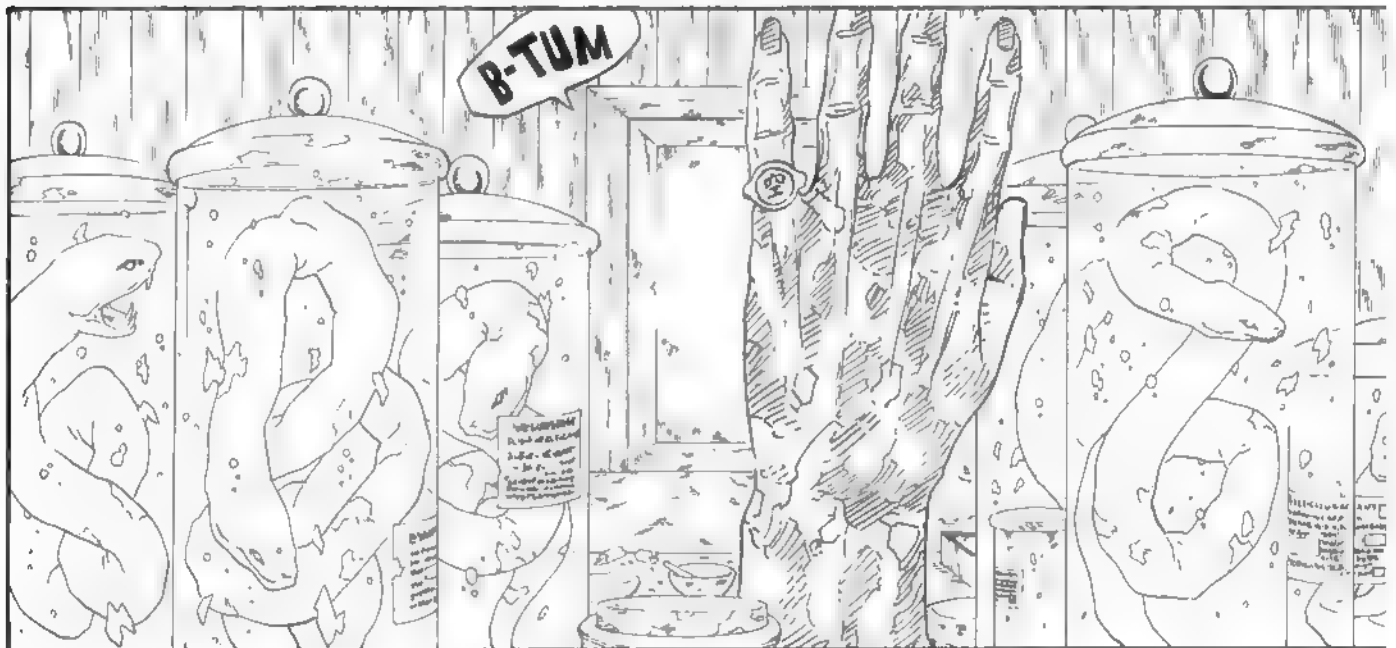
WHAT
STRONG
EYES
YOU
HAVE.

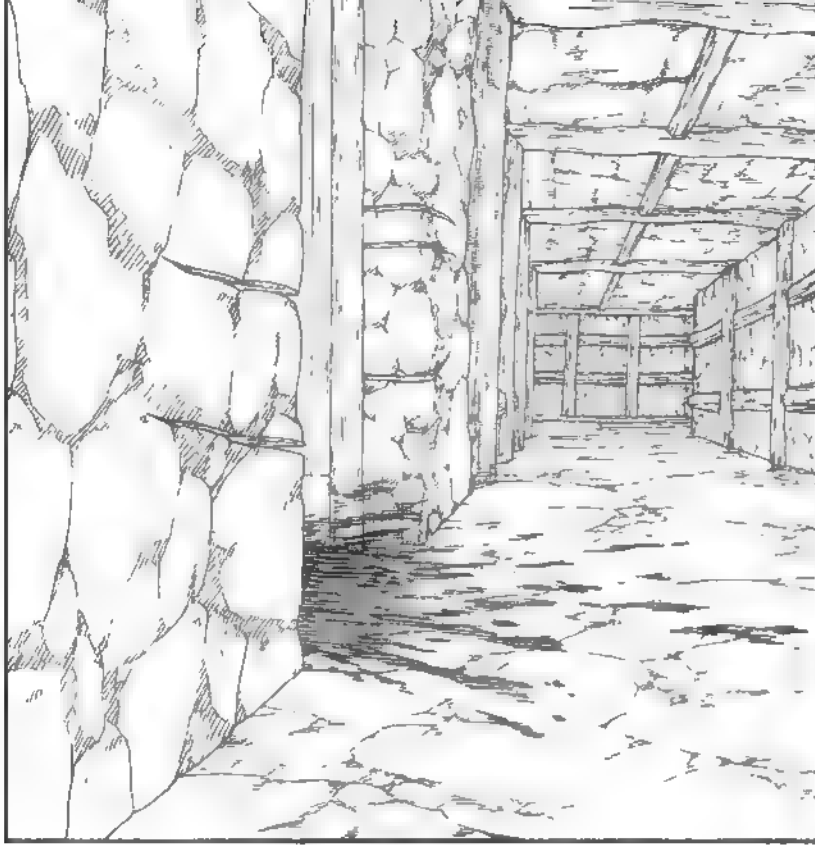
READ THIS WAY

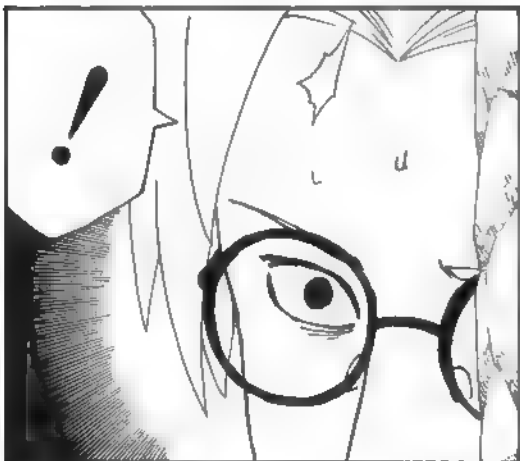


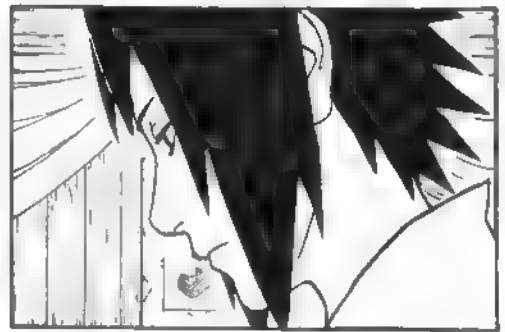


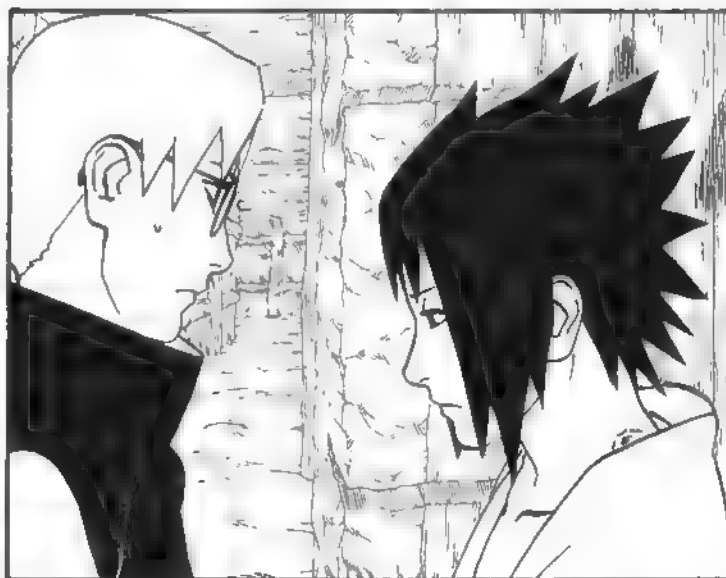
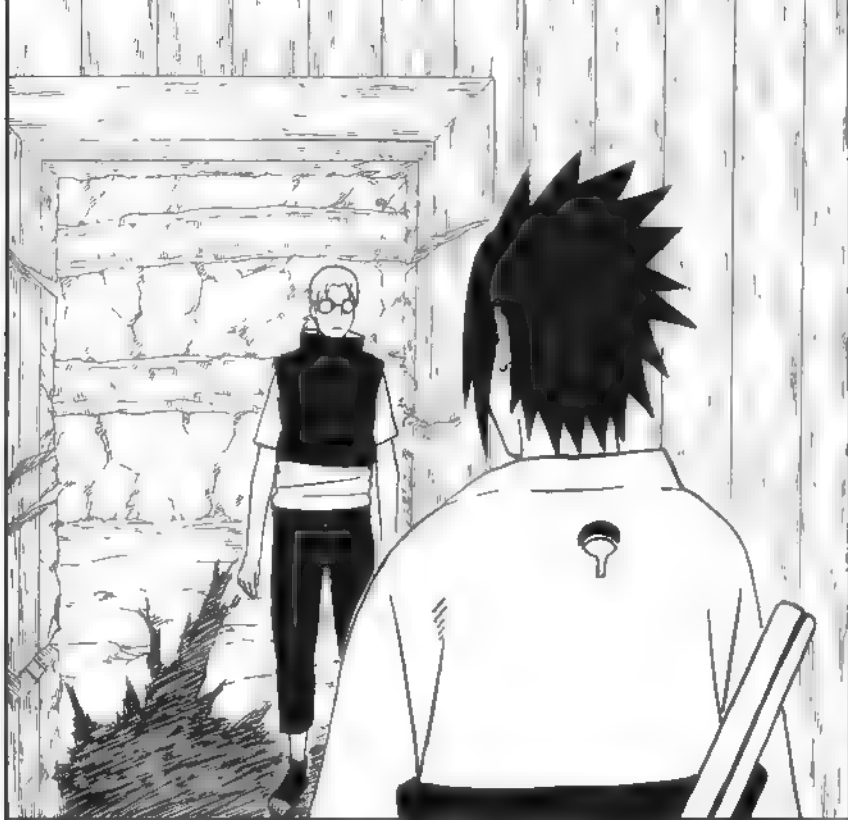


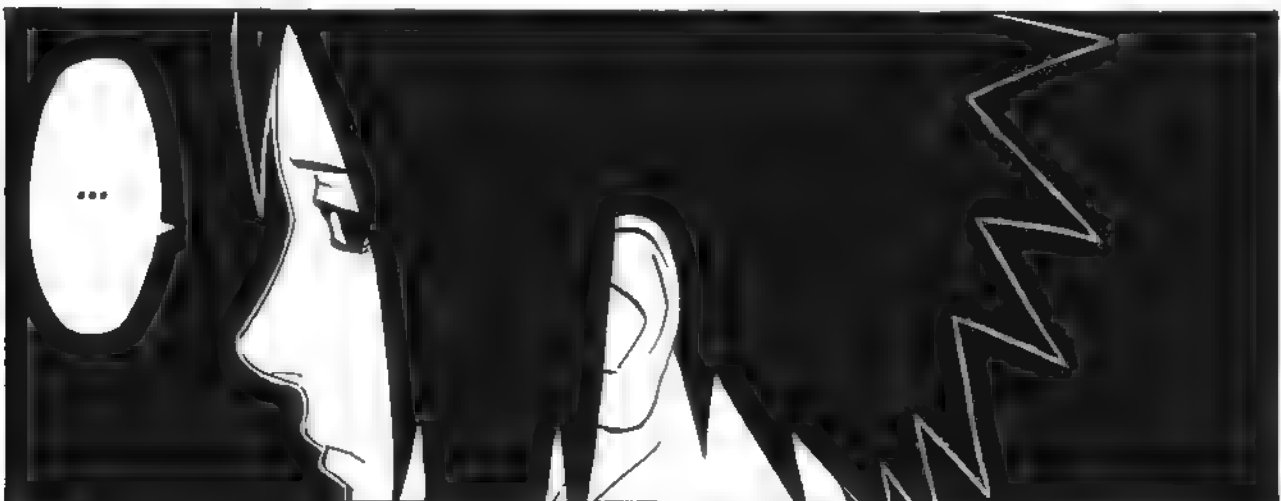












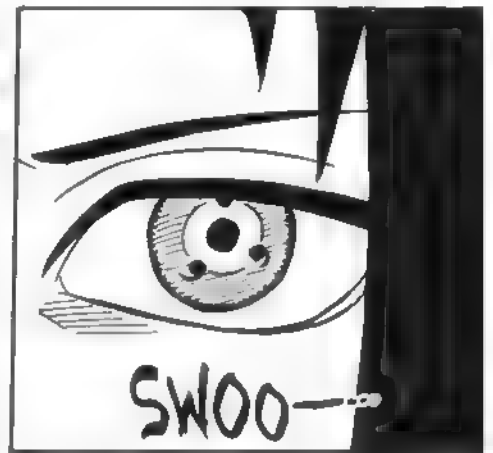
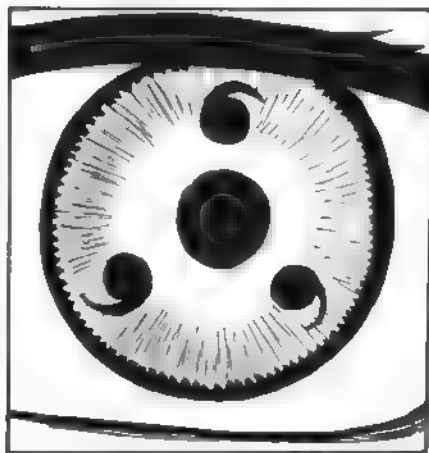
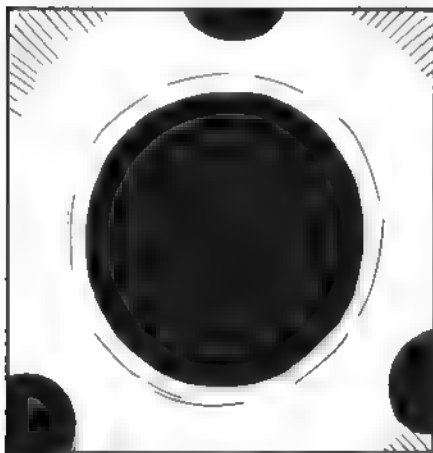
NARUTO

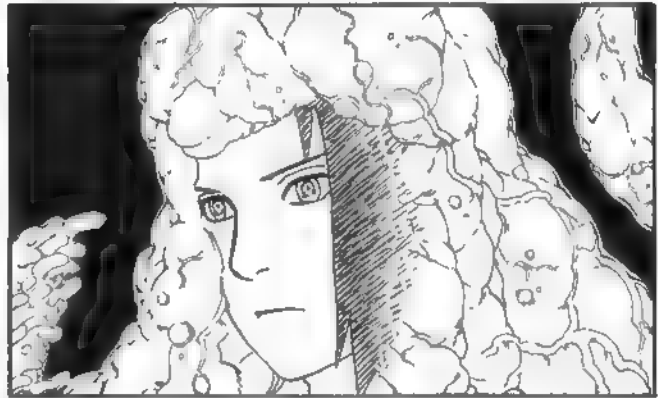
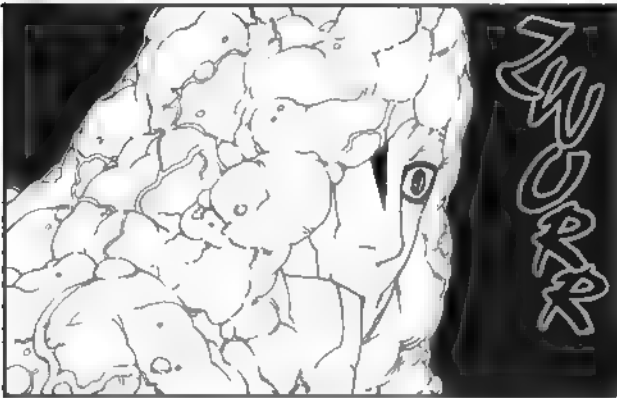
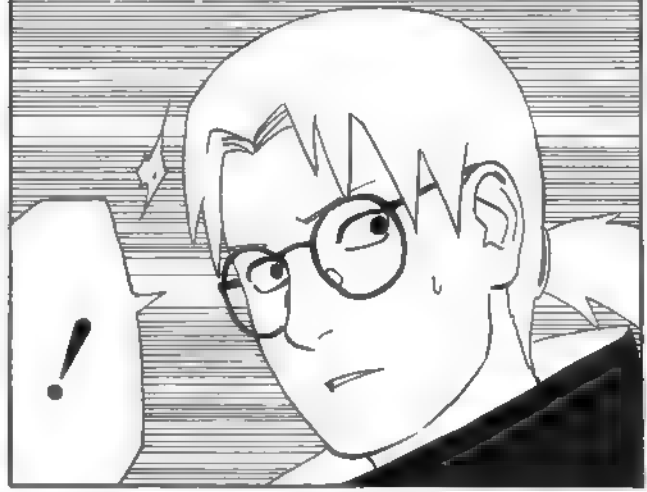


Number 346: The Secret

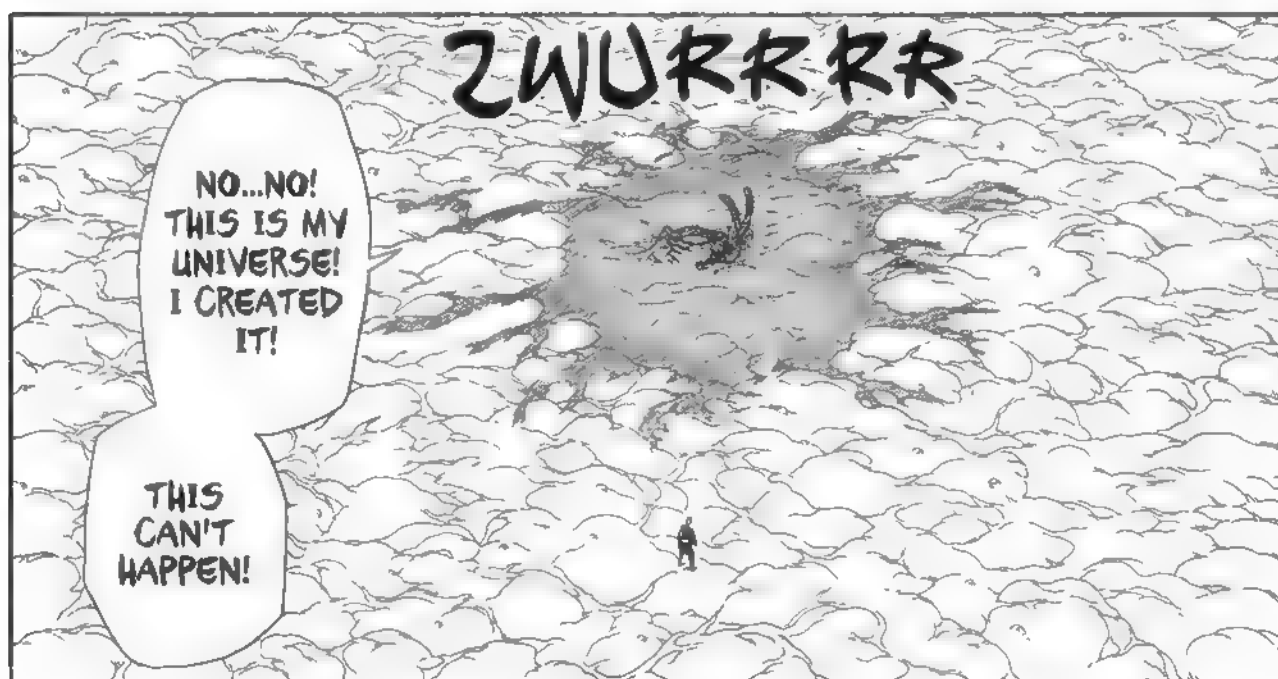
of the New Jutsu!!

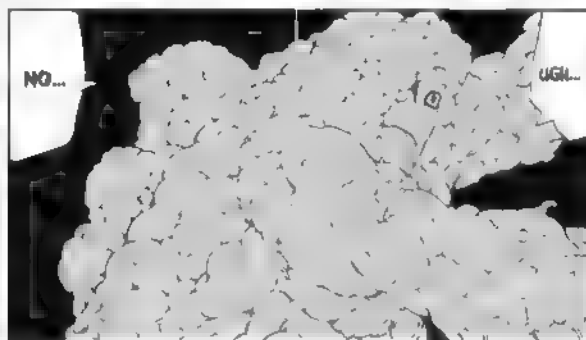
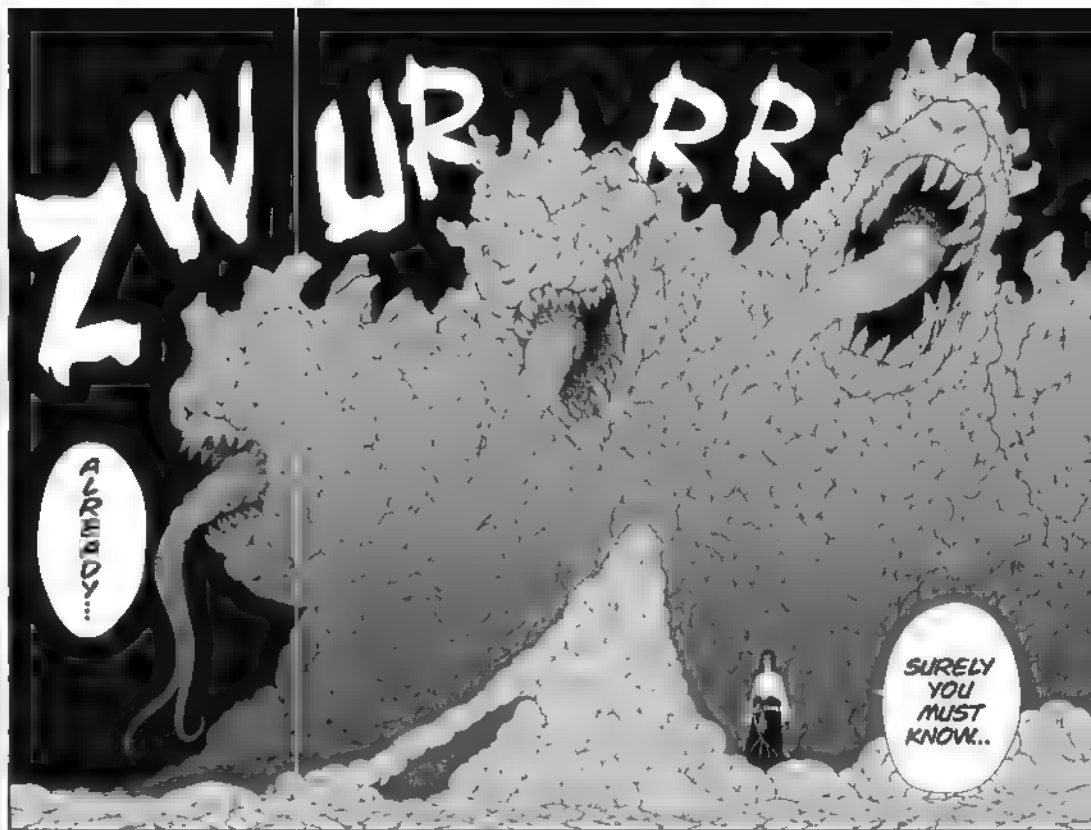


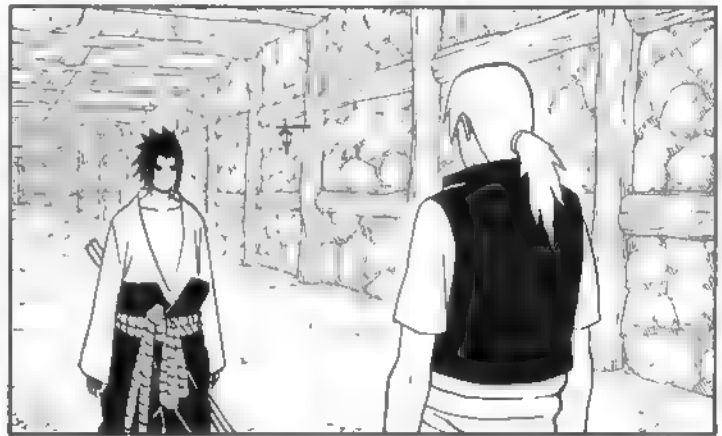
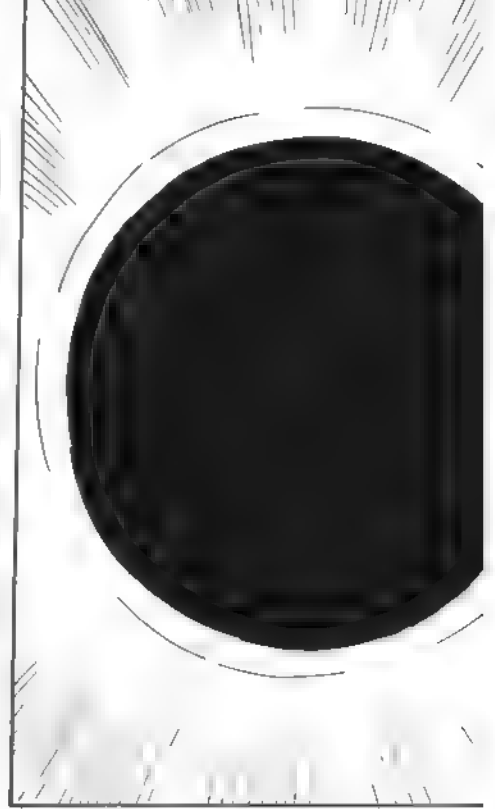
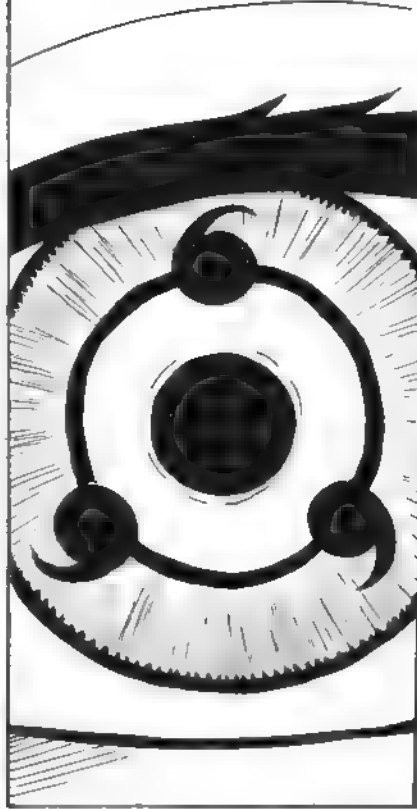


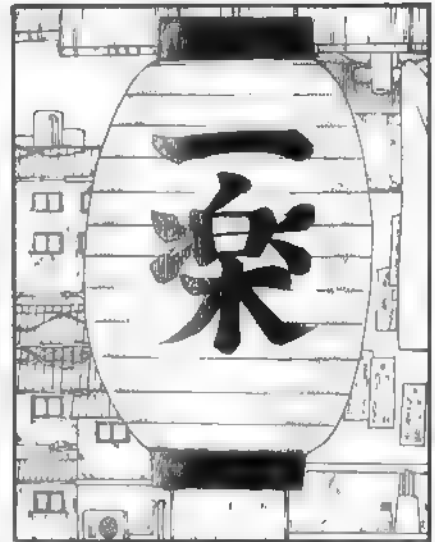
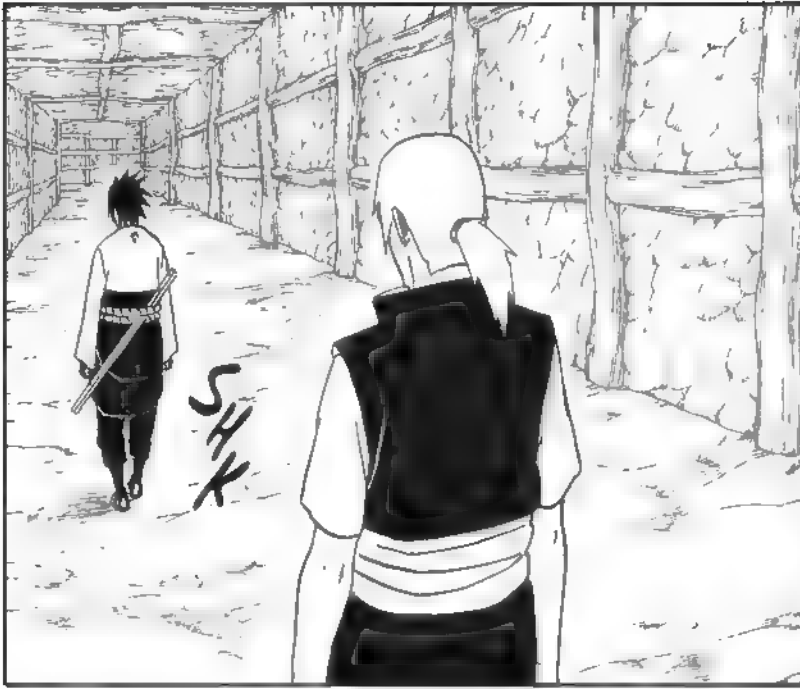






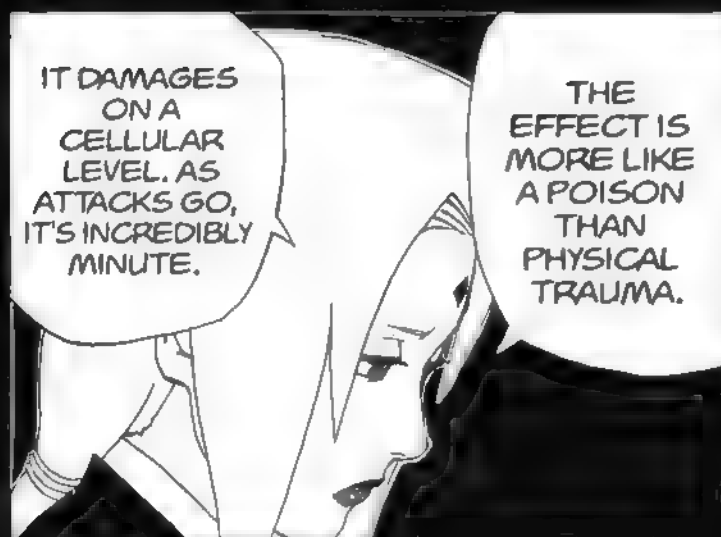
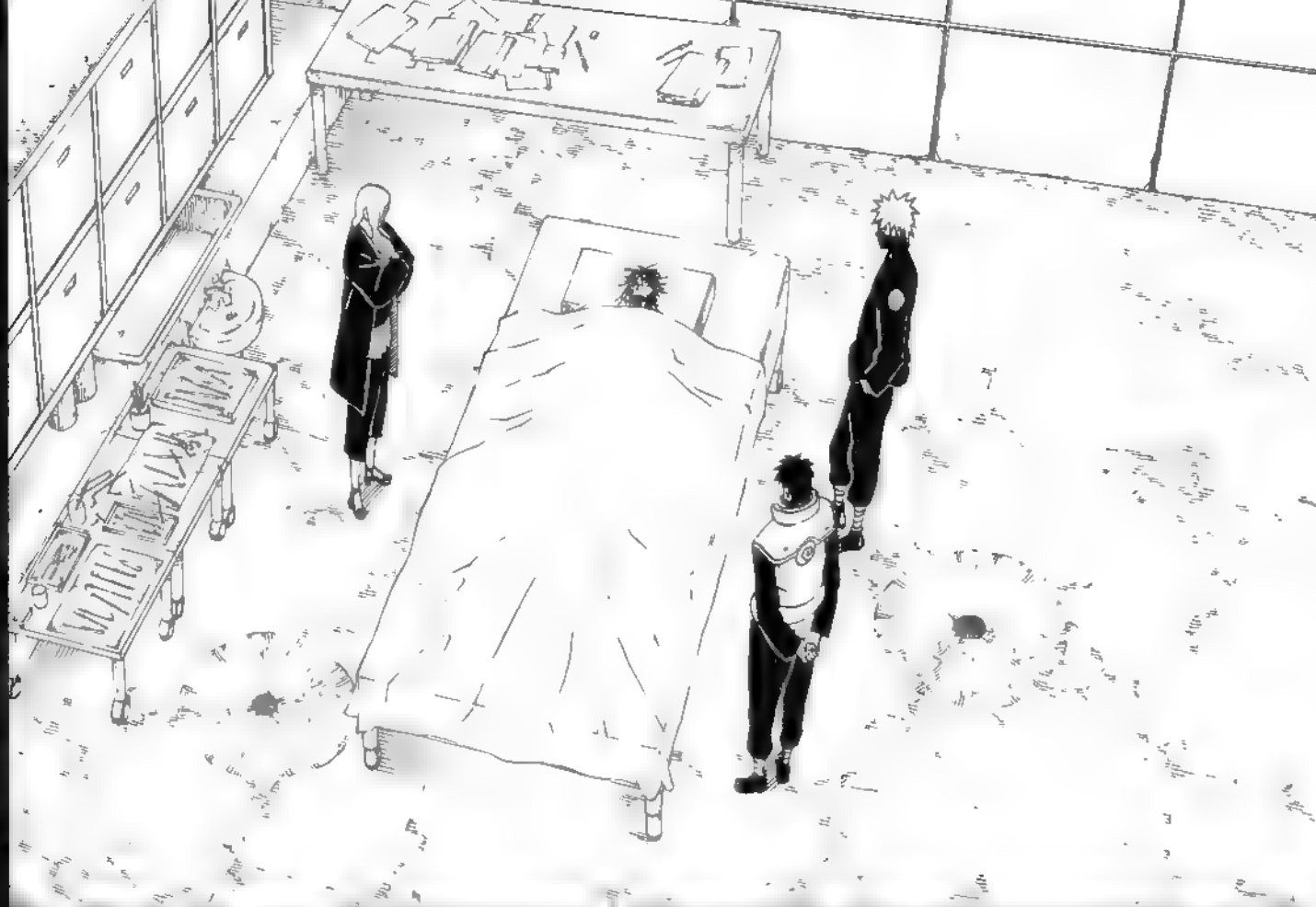


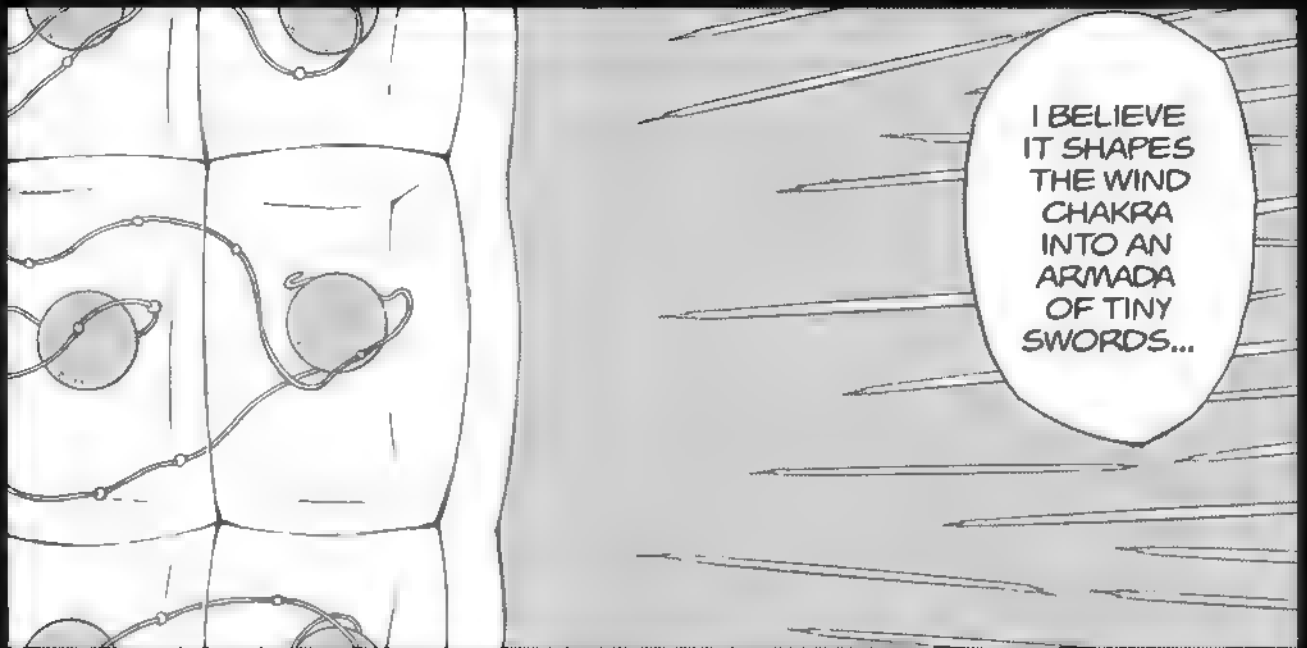




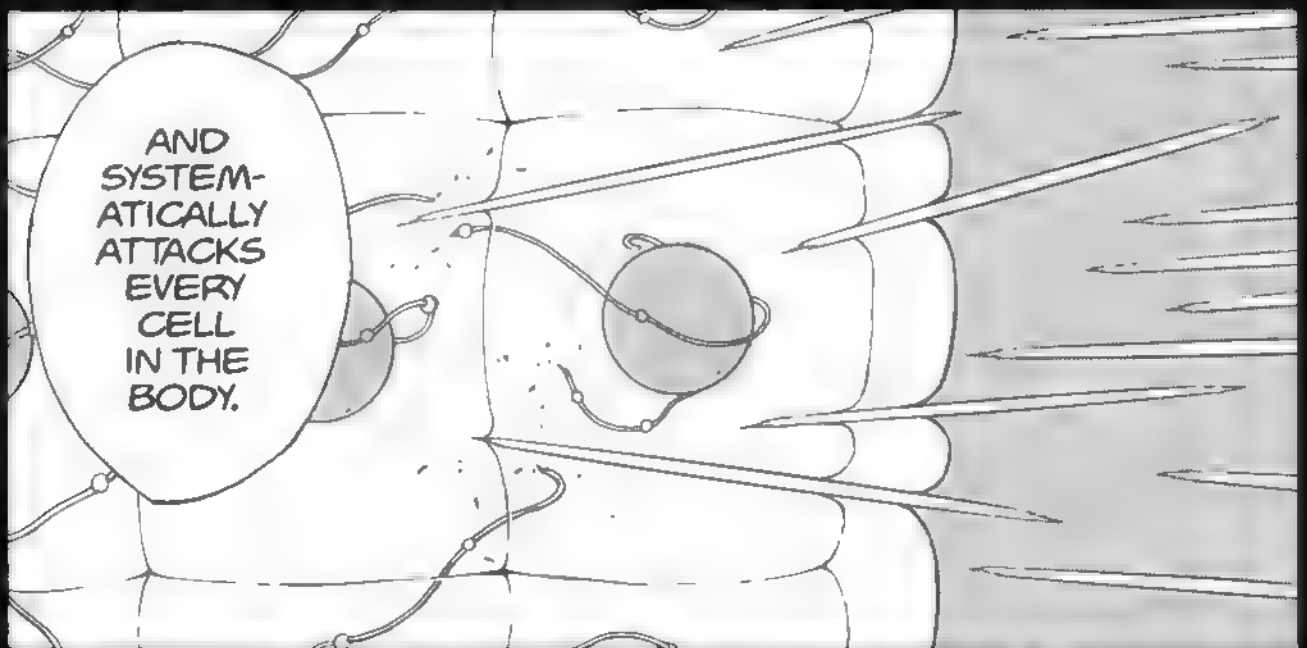
(ICHIRAKU)



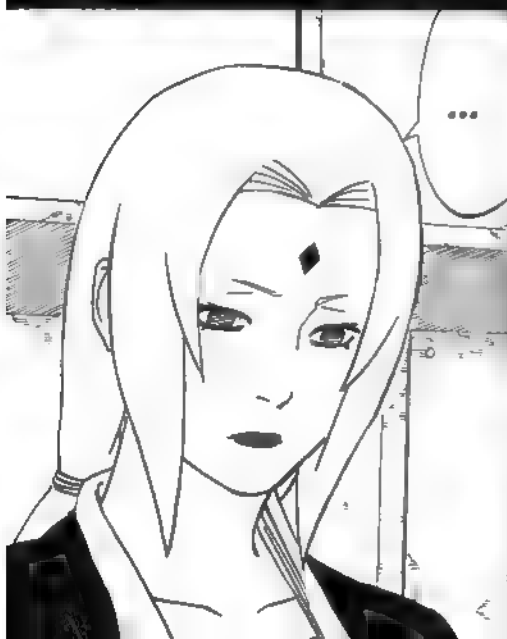




I BELIEVE
IT SHAPES
THE WIND
CHAKRA
INTO AN
ARMADA
OF TINY
SWORDS...



AND
SYSTEM-
ATICALLY
ATTACKS
EVERY
CELL
IN THE
BODY.

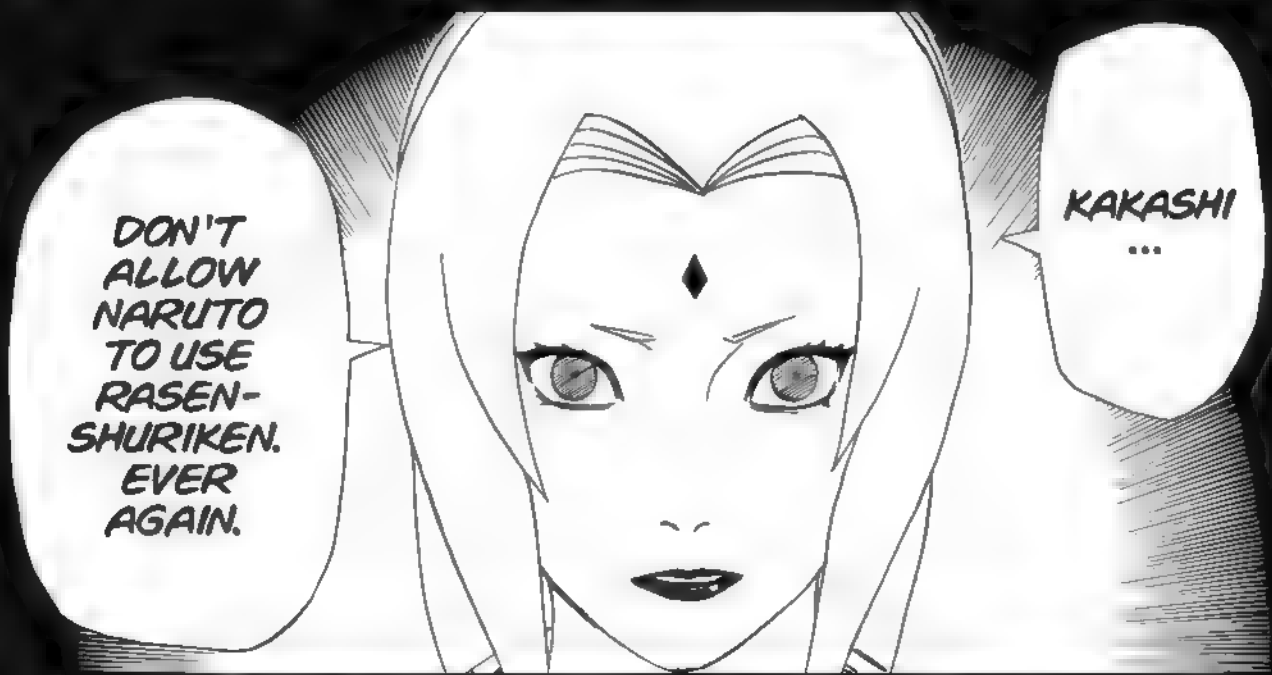
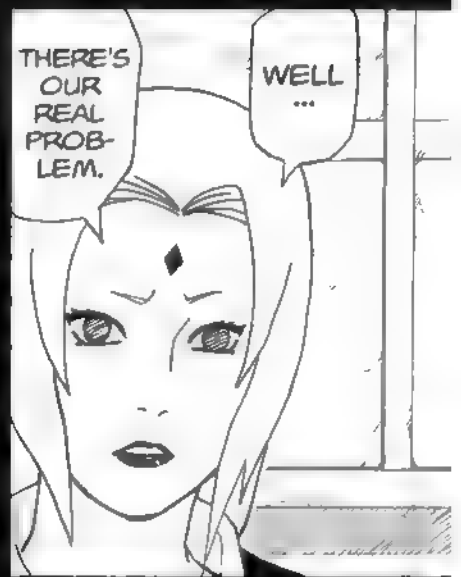


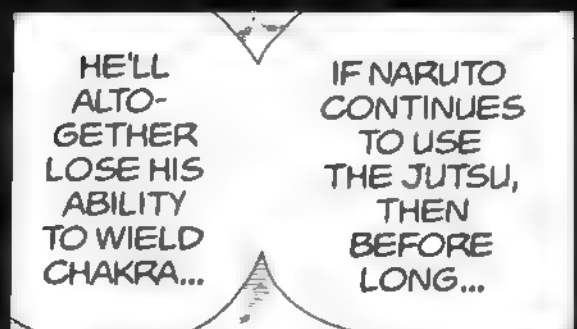
...
I SUPPOSE,
THEN,
IT WOULD BE
MORE PRAC-
TICAL TO SPEAK
IN TERMS
OF CONCEN-
TRATION,
RATHER THAN
IN NUMBER OF
ATTACKS?

...
HMMM...
POISON
INDEED.

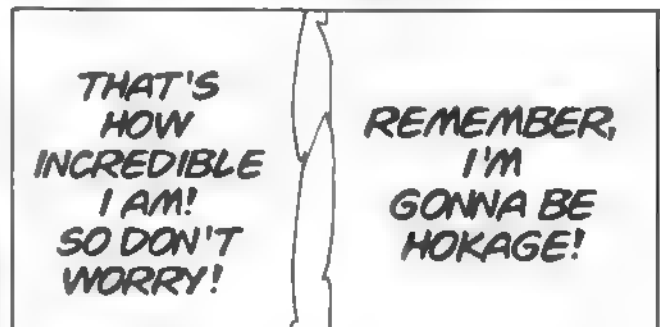
...
THAT'S
SOME
JUTSU
...





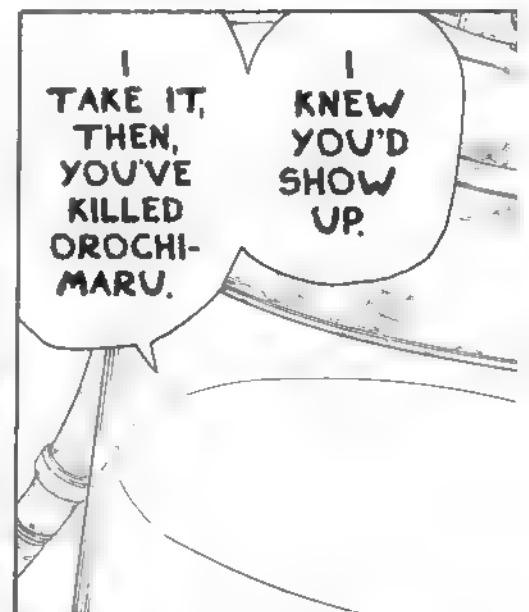
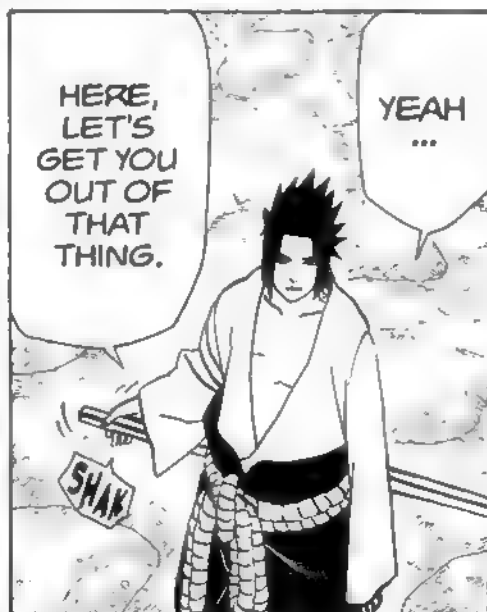
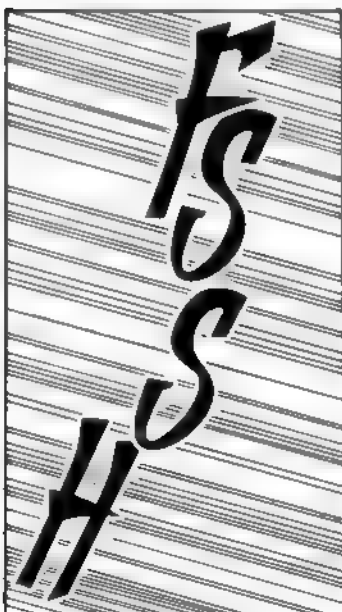
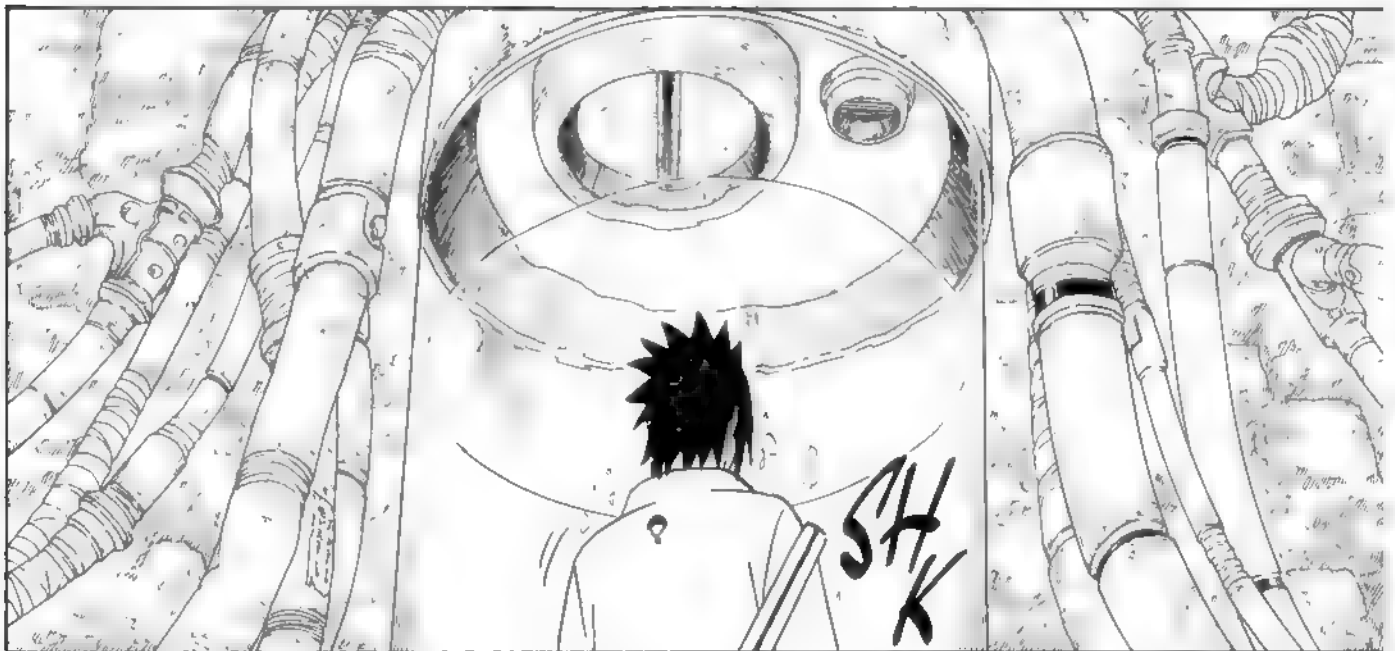
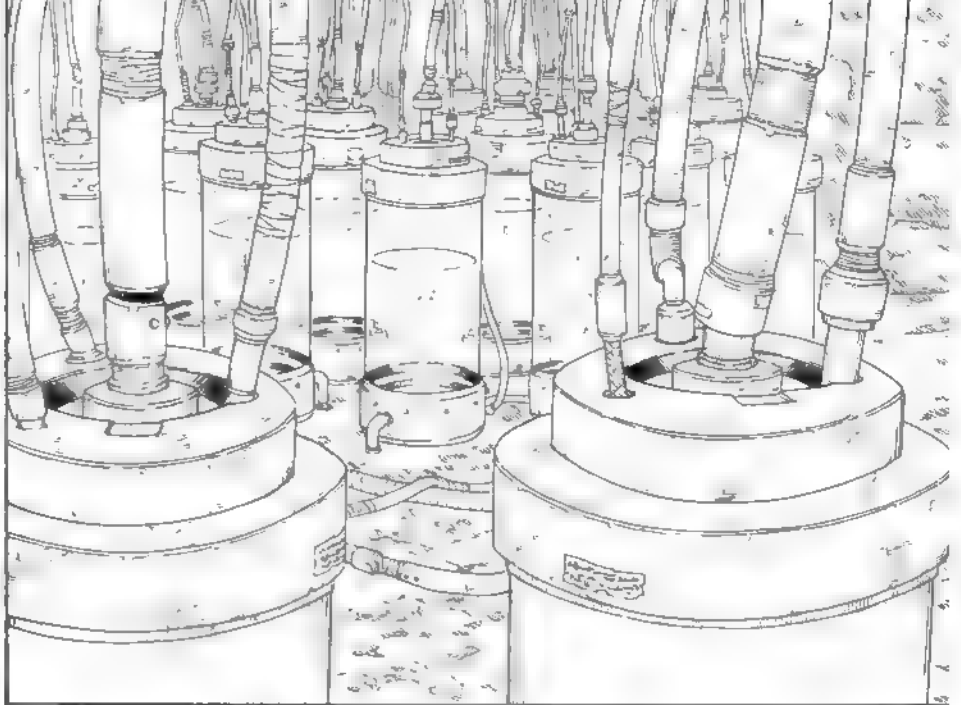




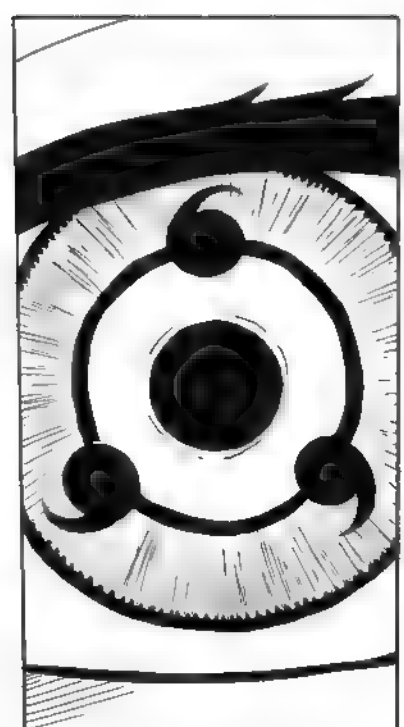


THANKS FOR THE FOOD!

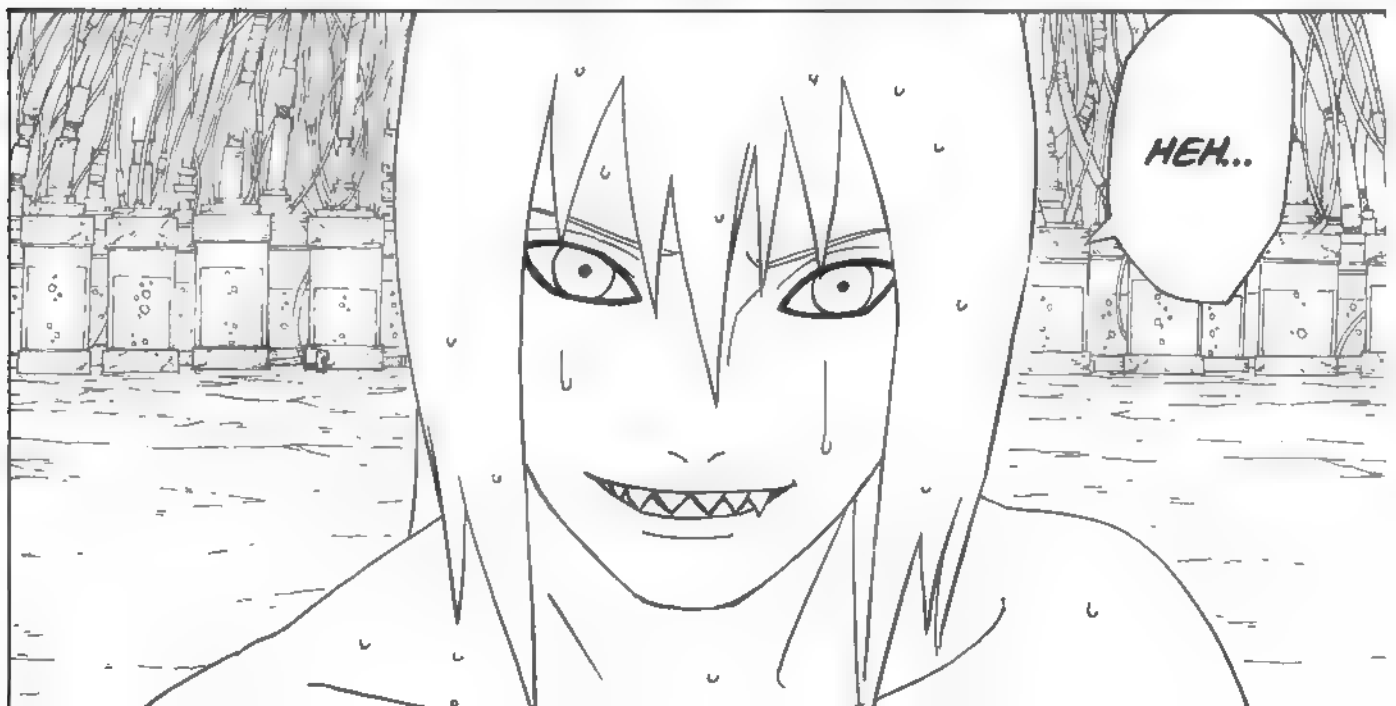


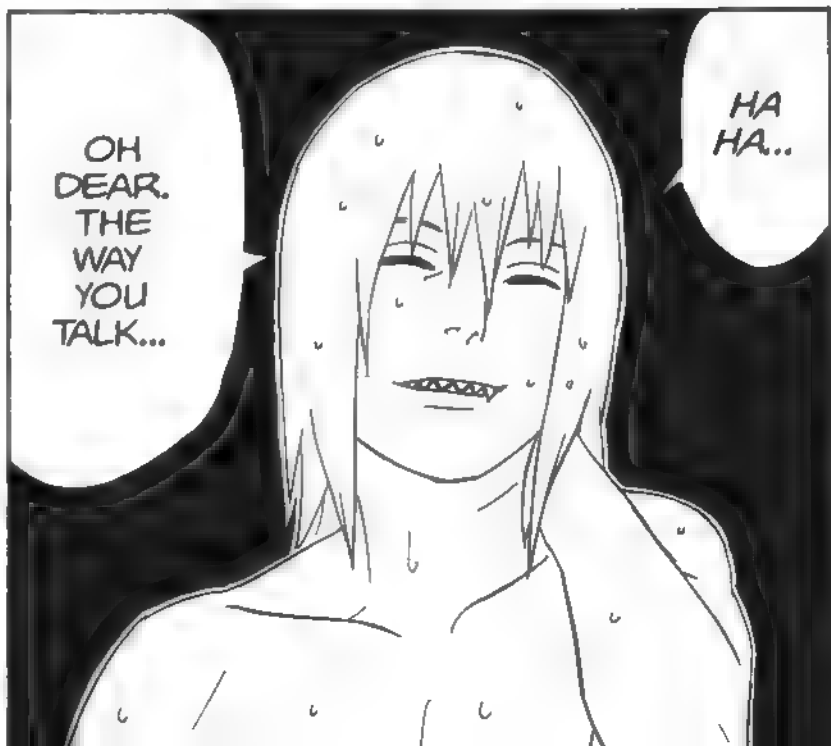


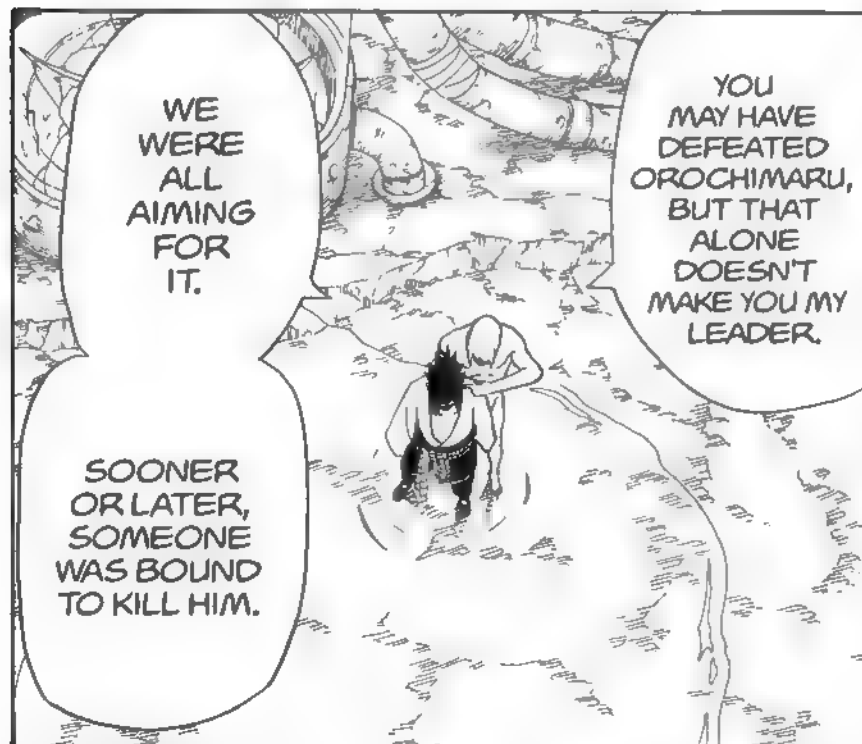




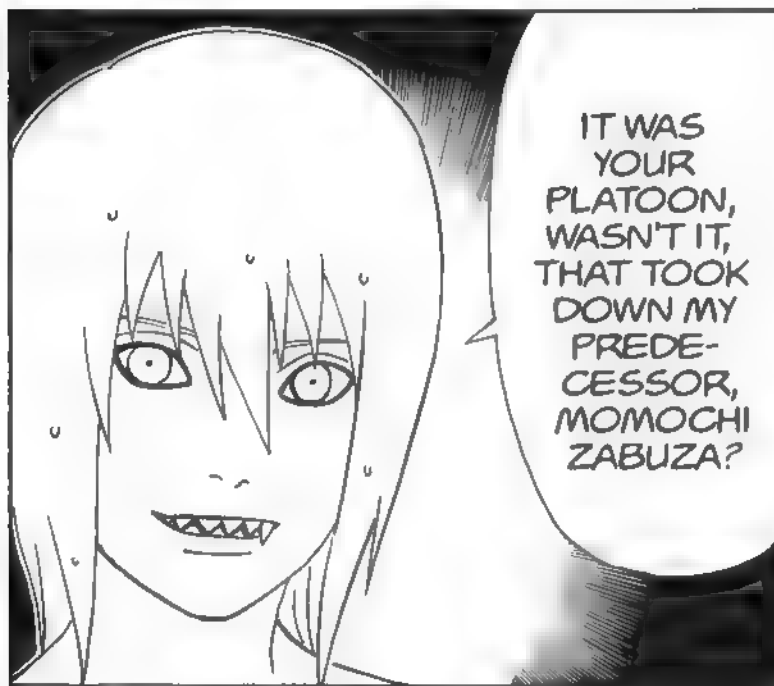


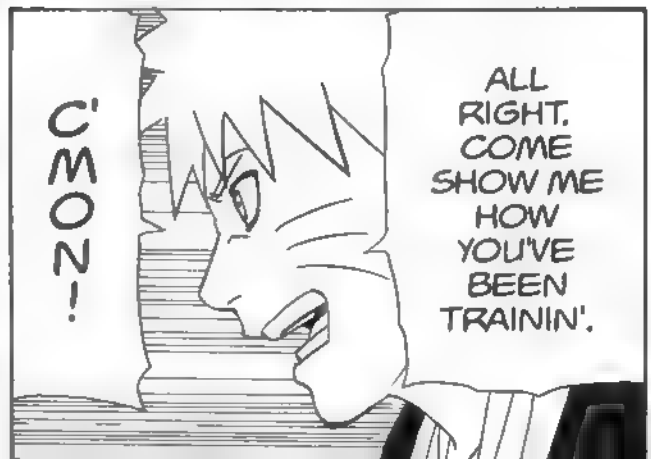
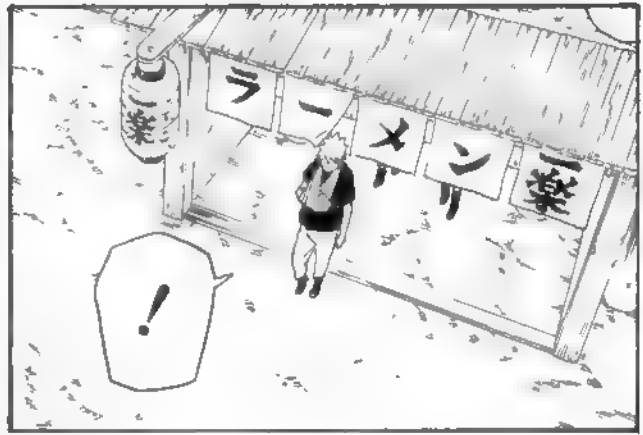








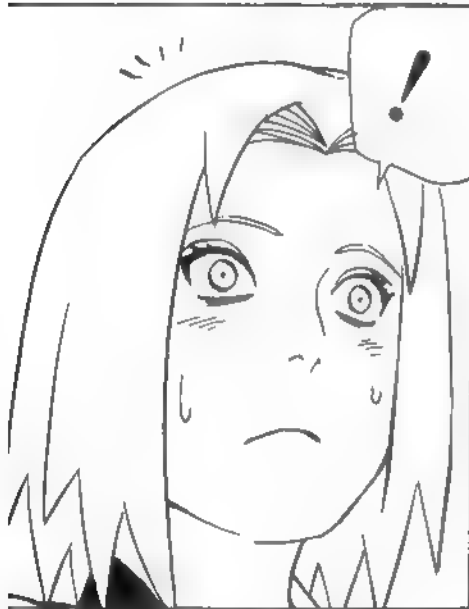


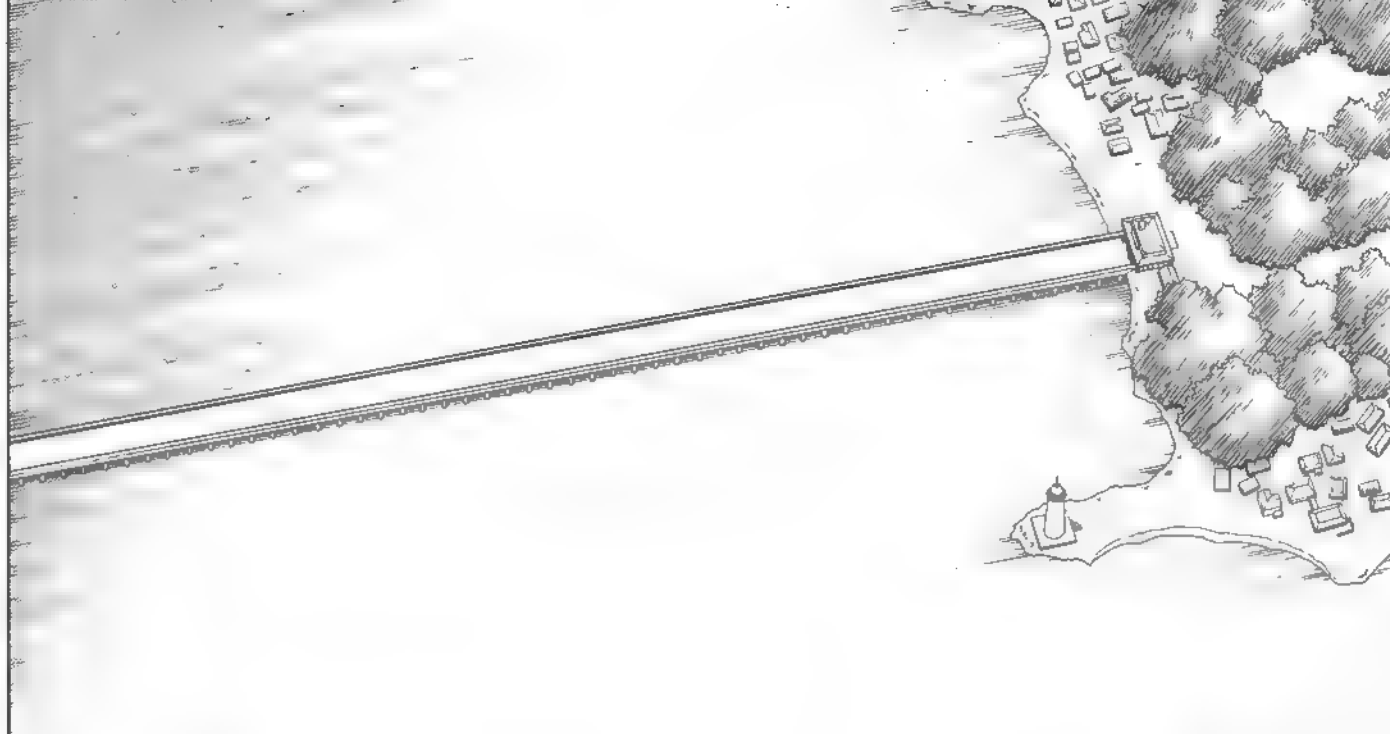








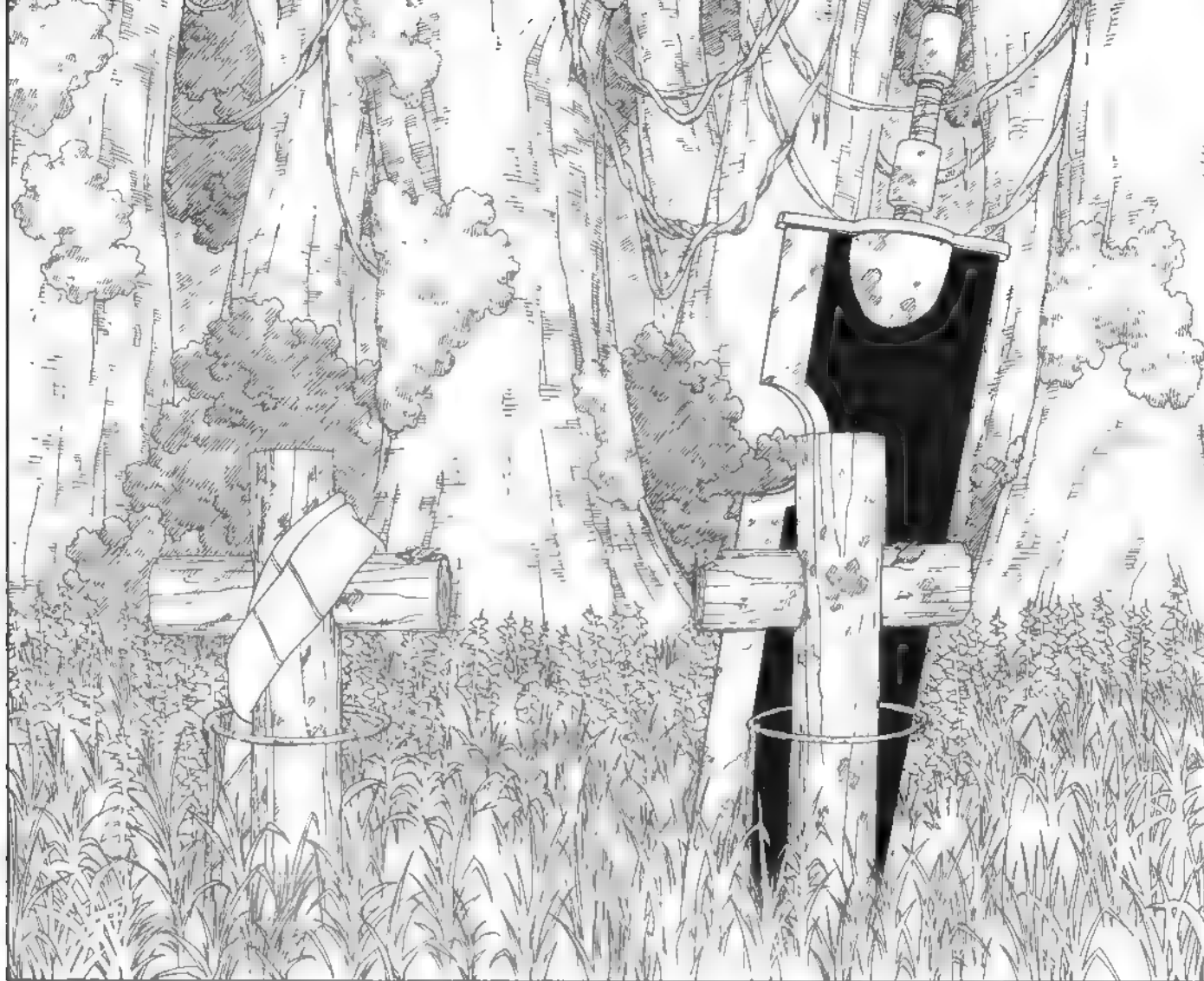




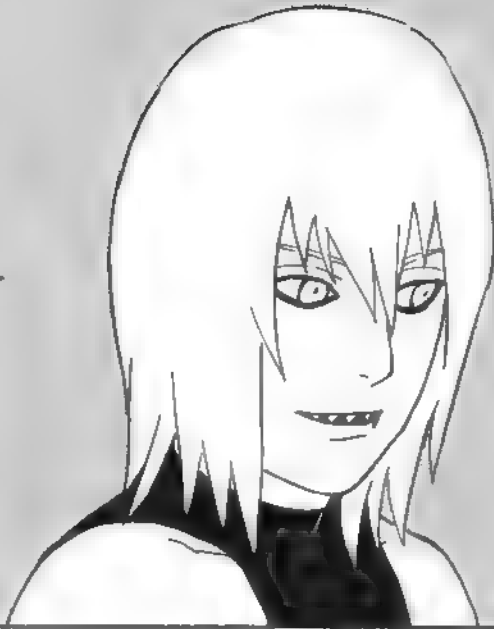


(THE GREAT NARUTO BRIDGE)



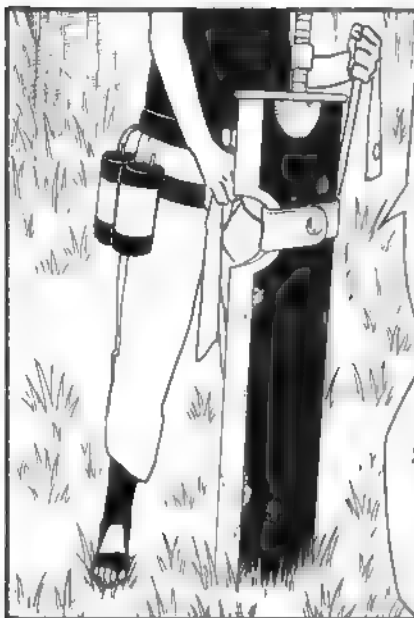







AND...
ALL THESE
YEARS I'VE
TRAINED,
I'VE DONE
IT ONLY
OUT OF
REVERENCE
FOR THE
SEVEN
NINJA.

THE WEAPON
OF THE
**SEVEN NINJA
SWORDSMEN**
HAS BEEN
HANDLED DOWN,
GENERATION TO
GENERATION.
IT'S THE
TRADITION.




BESIDES,
IF YOU
GOT TO
HAVE
JUGO...

THIS
SWORD WILL
DEFINITELY
COME IN
HANDY.



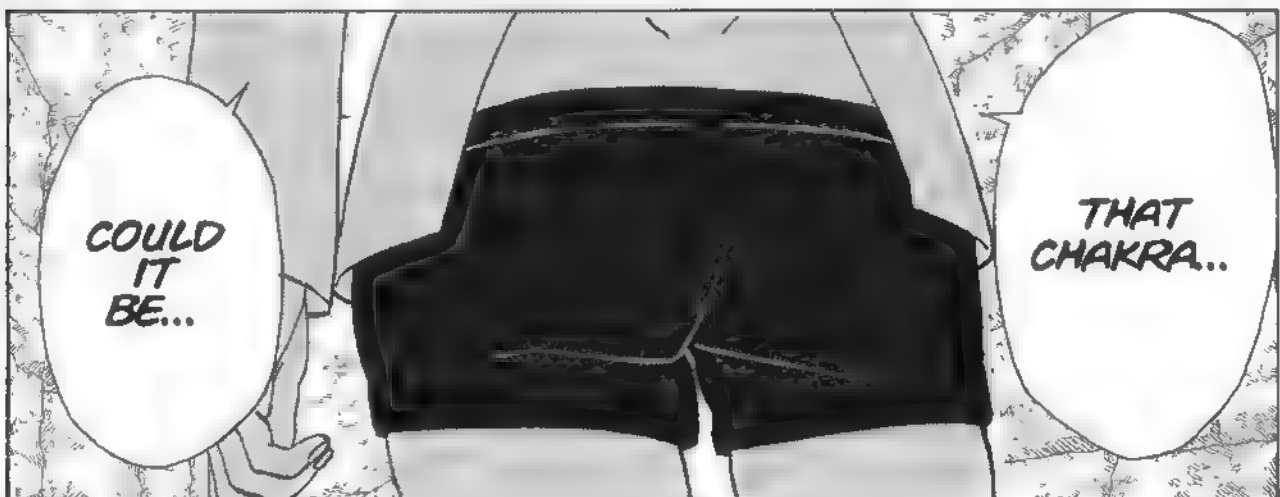
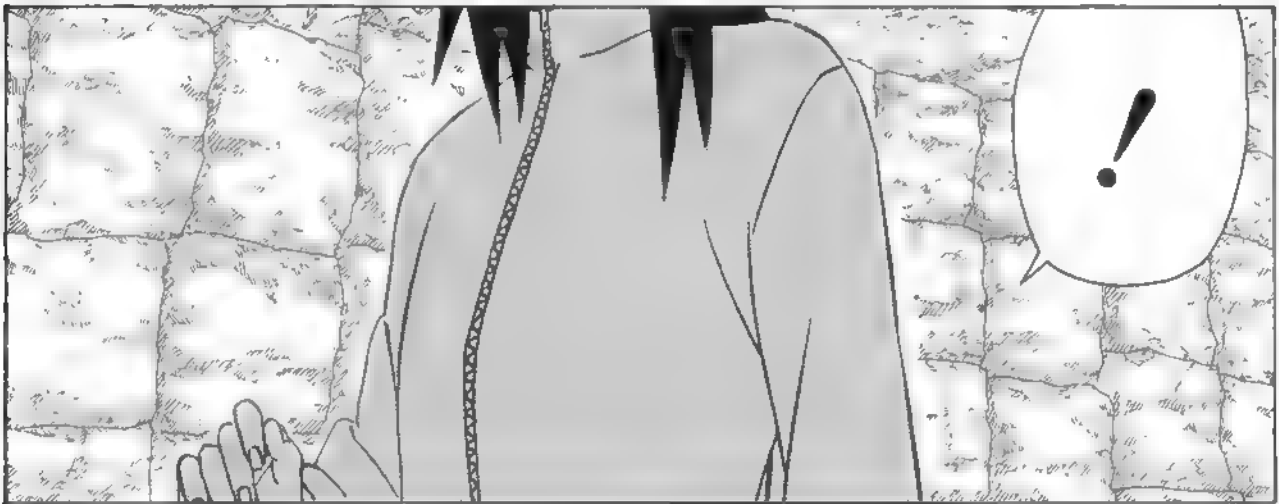
SO LONG
AS I HAVE
THIS
SWORD,
NOT EVEN
YOU CAN
TOUCH
ME...
MAYBE.



OKAY,
SASUKE.
FROM HERE,
LET'S
SHOOT FOR
WHICHEVER
HIDEOUT IS
CLOSER.



HEH.

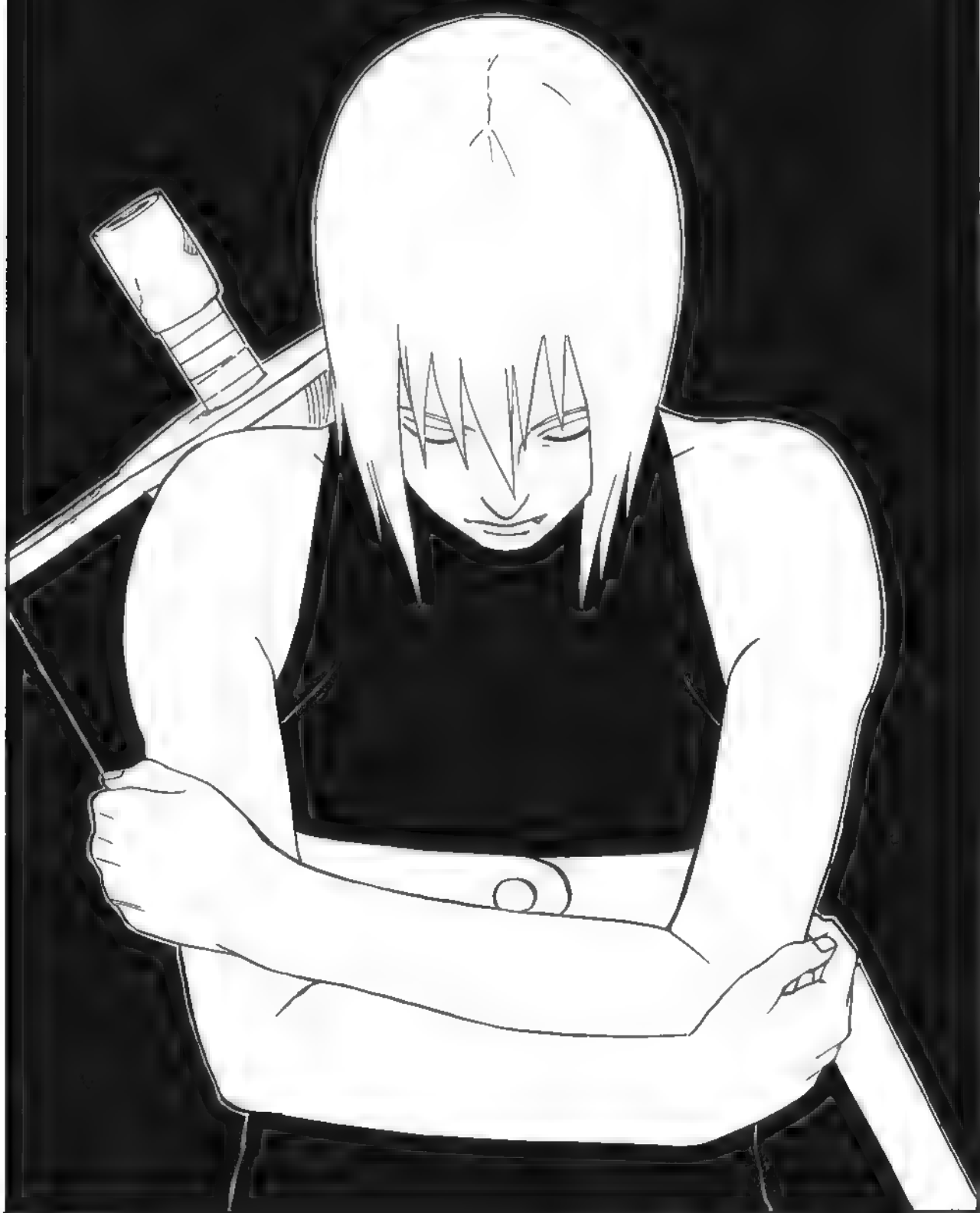


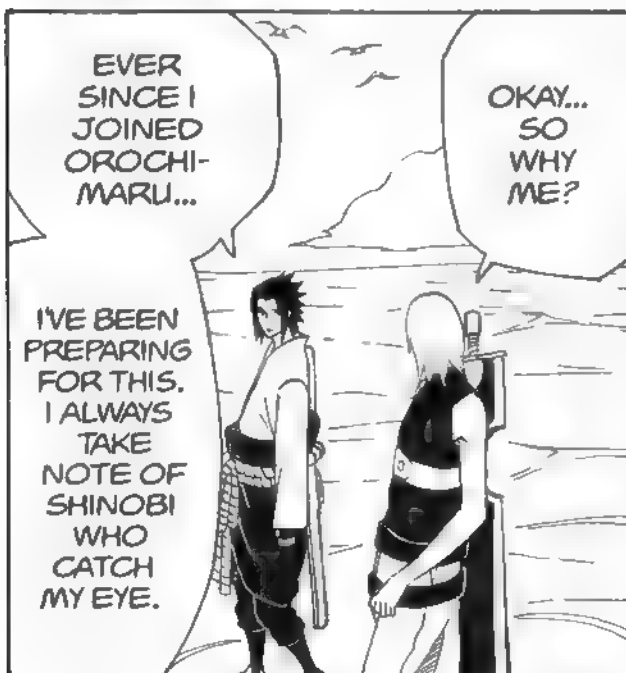
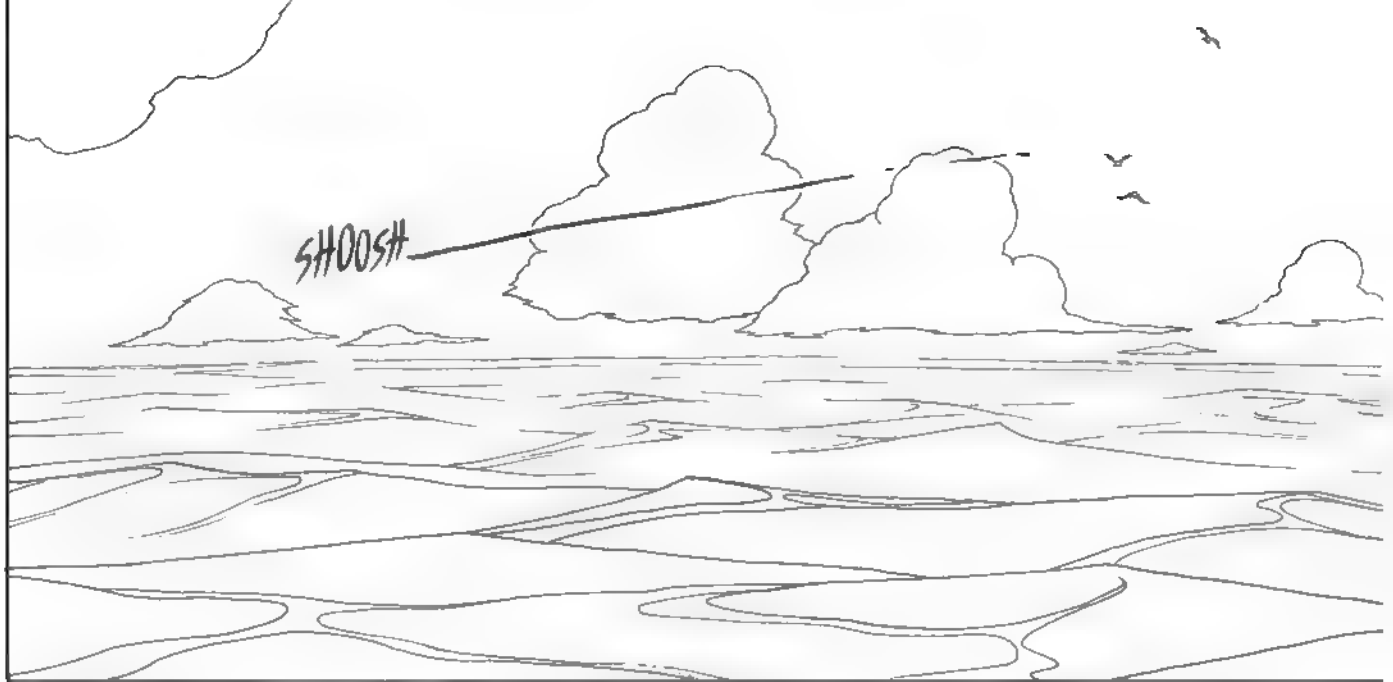
NARUTO

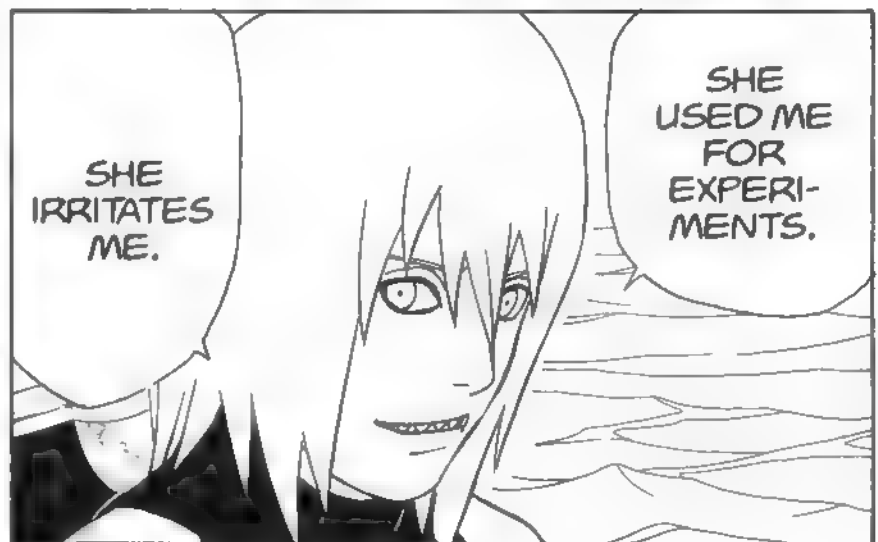
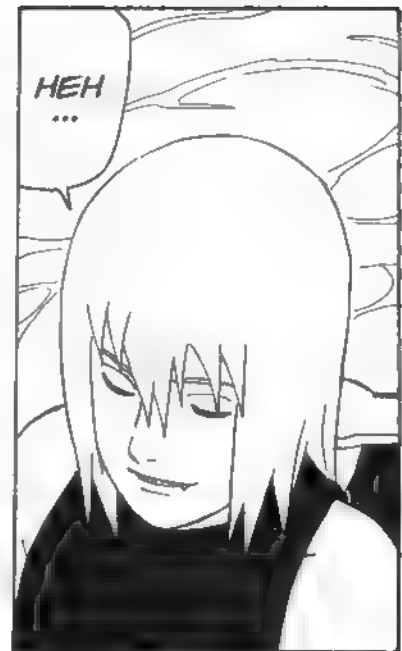
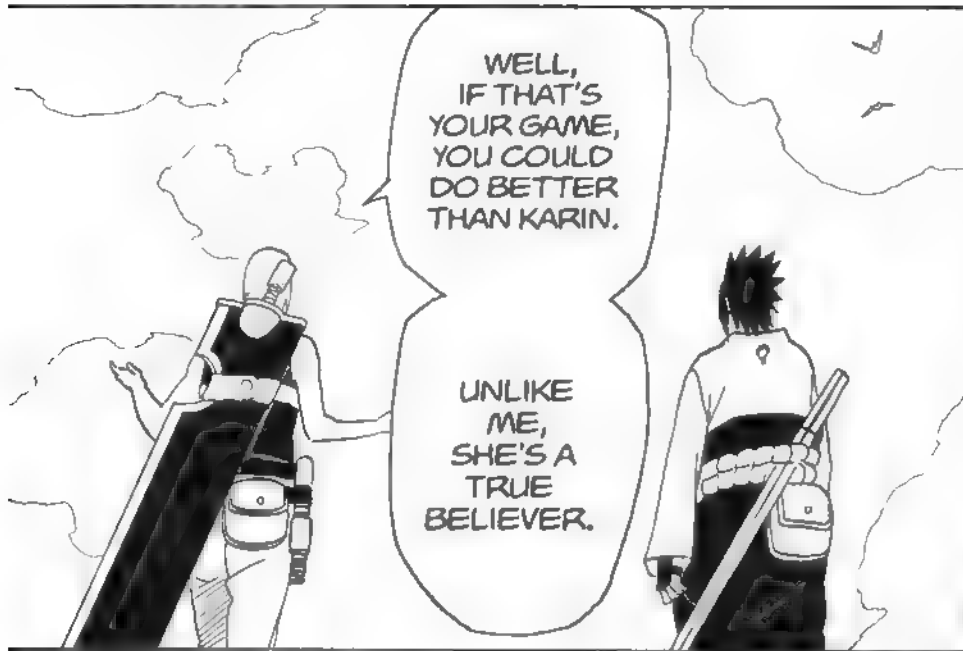


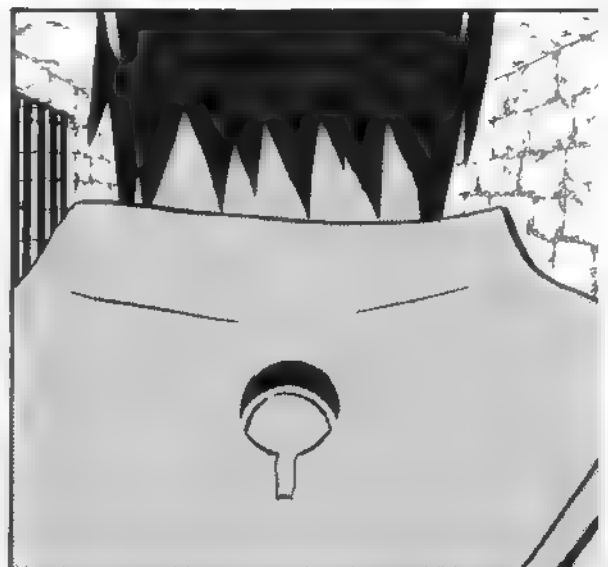
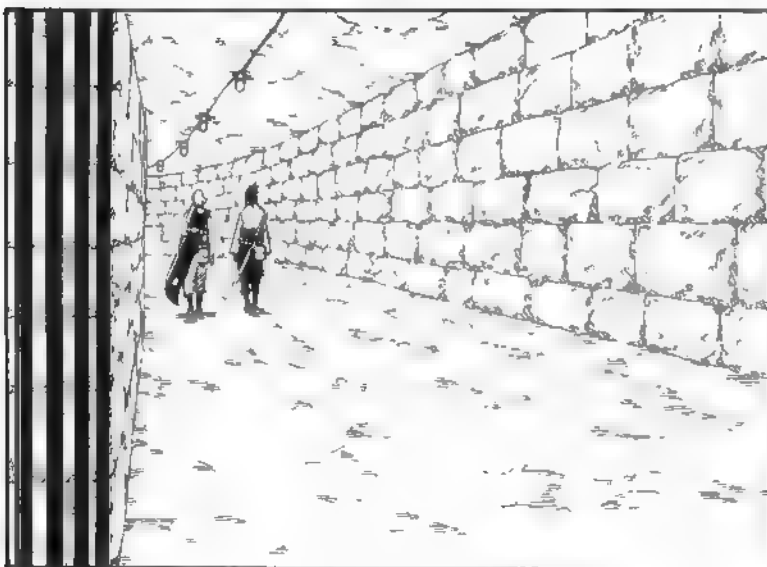
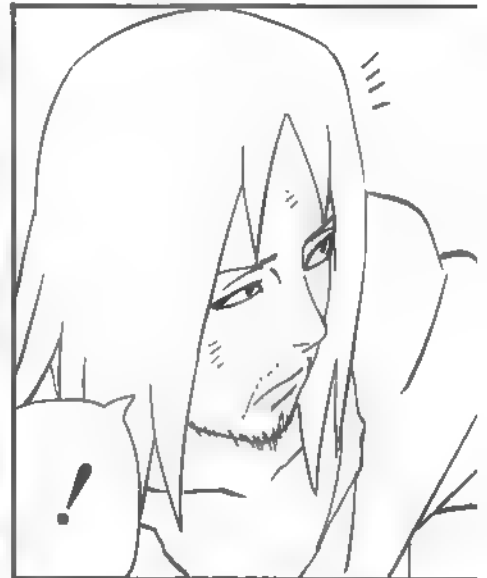
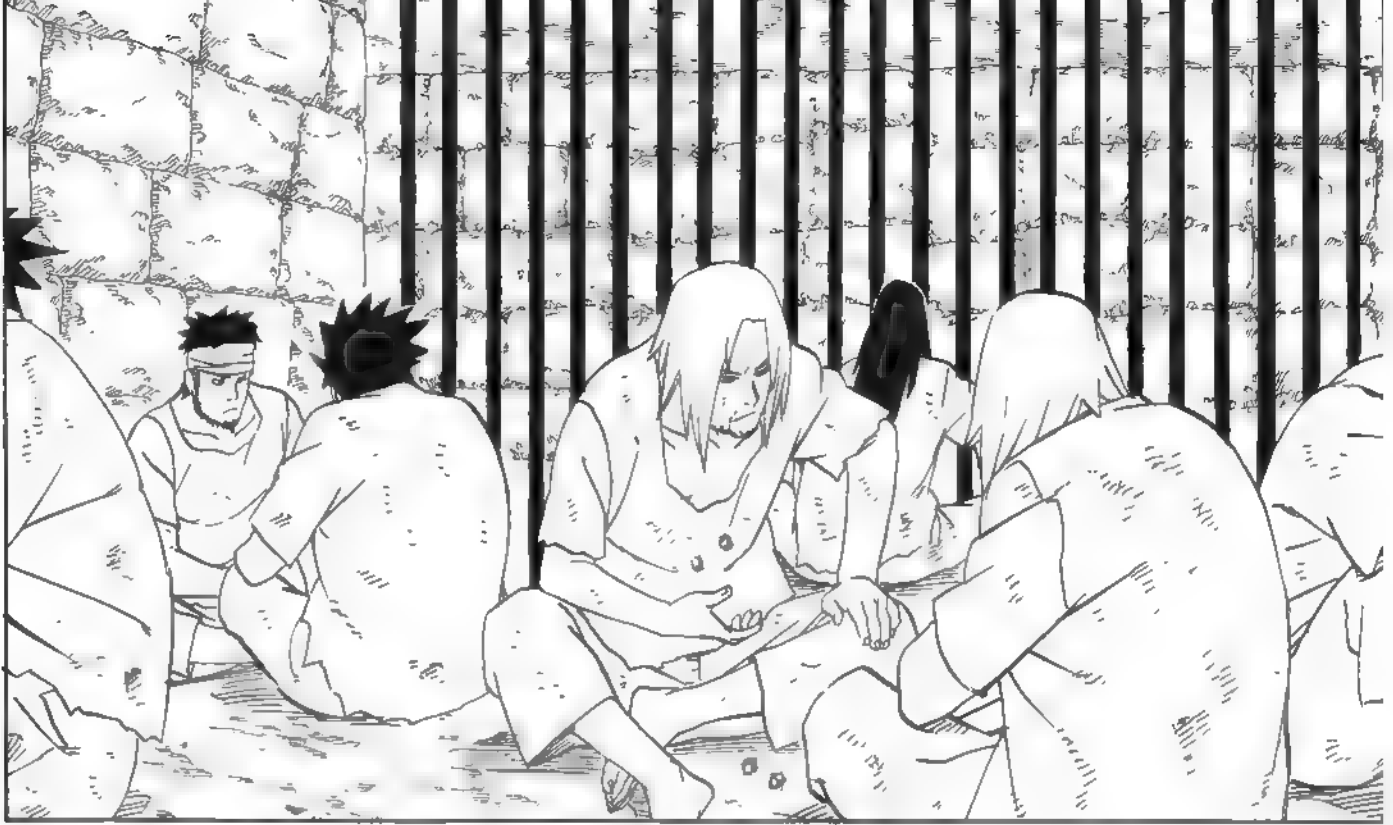
Number 348:

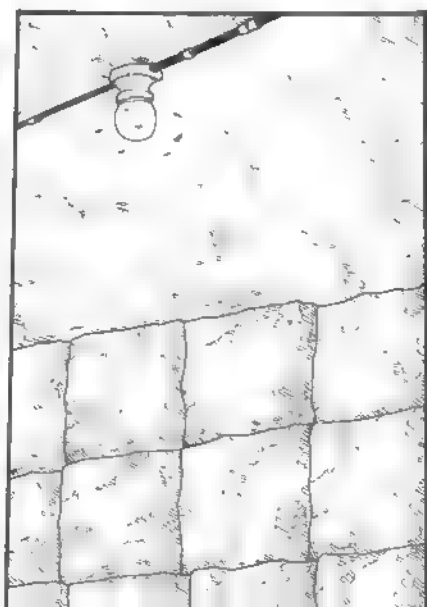
And One Makes Three!!

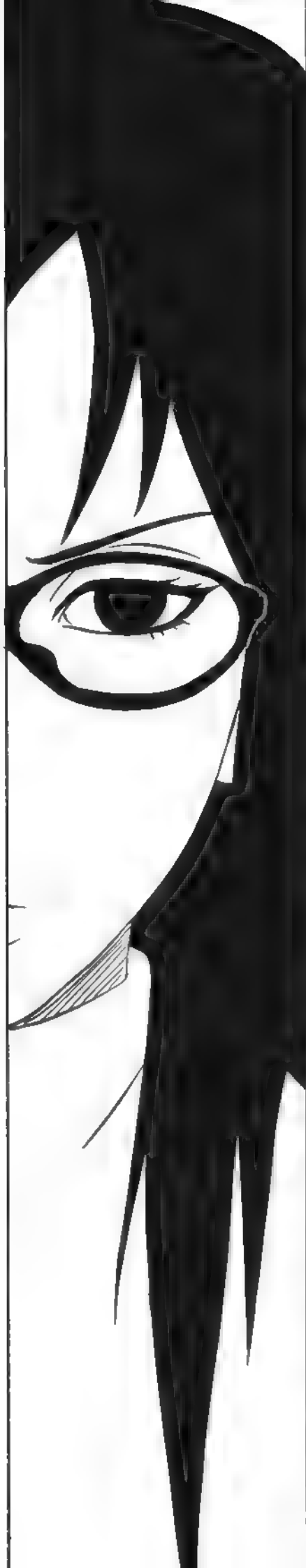


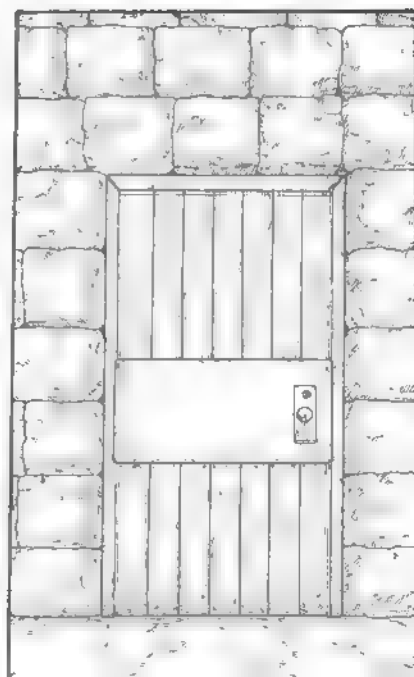








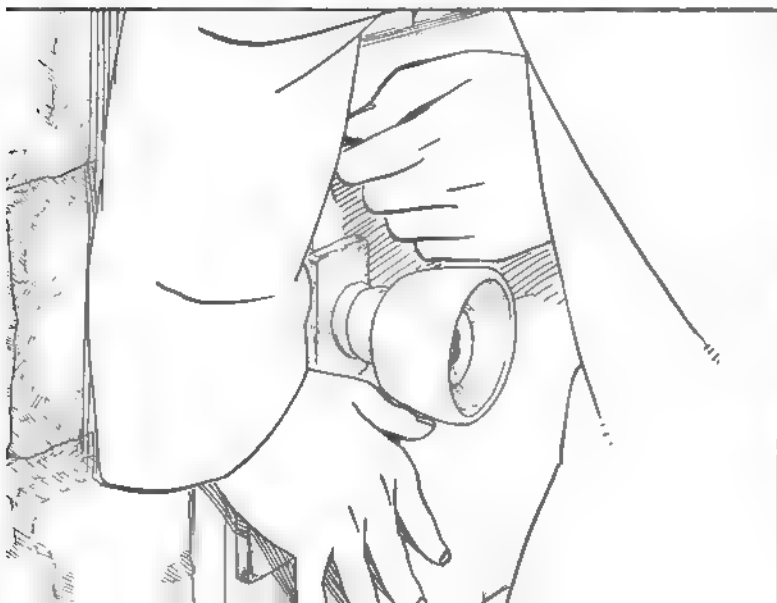
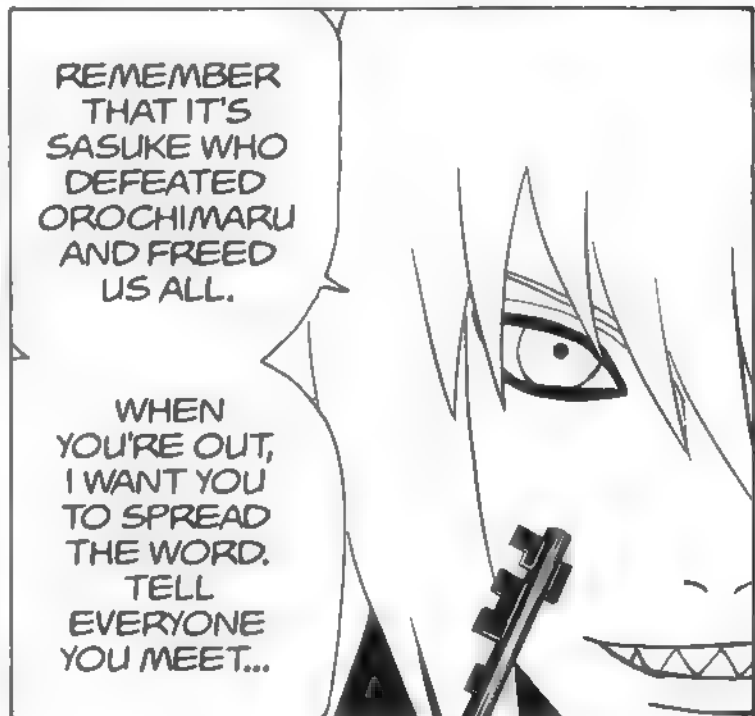


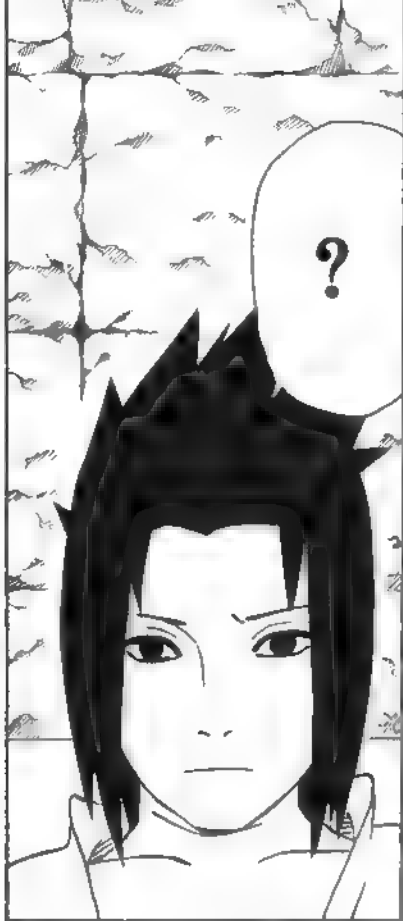




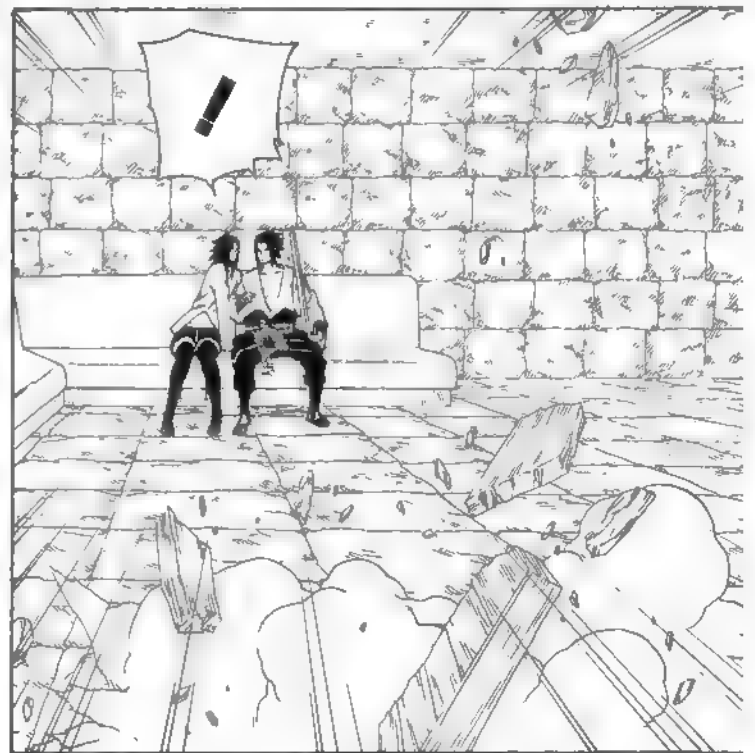
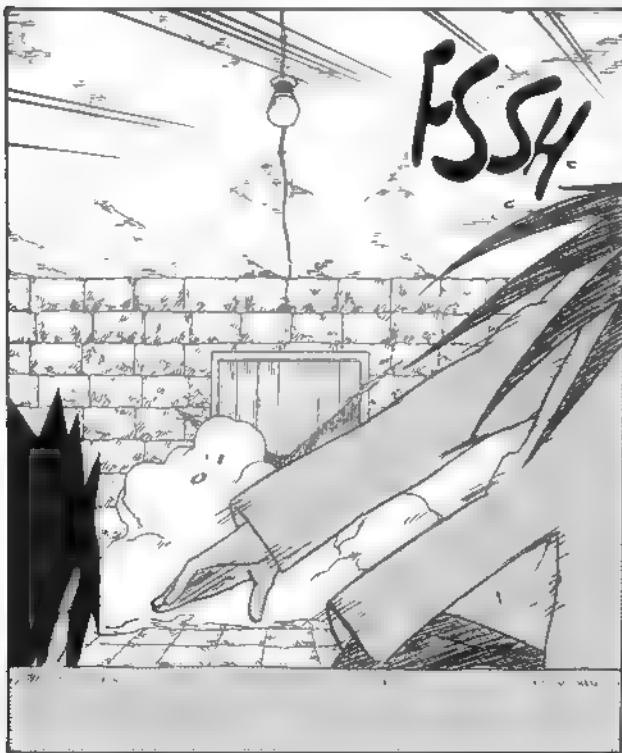




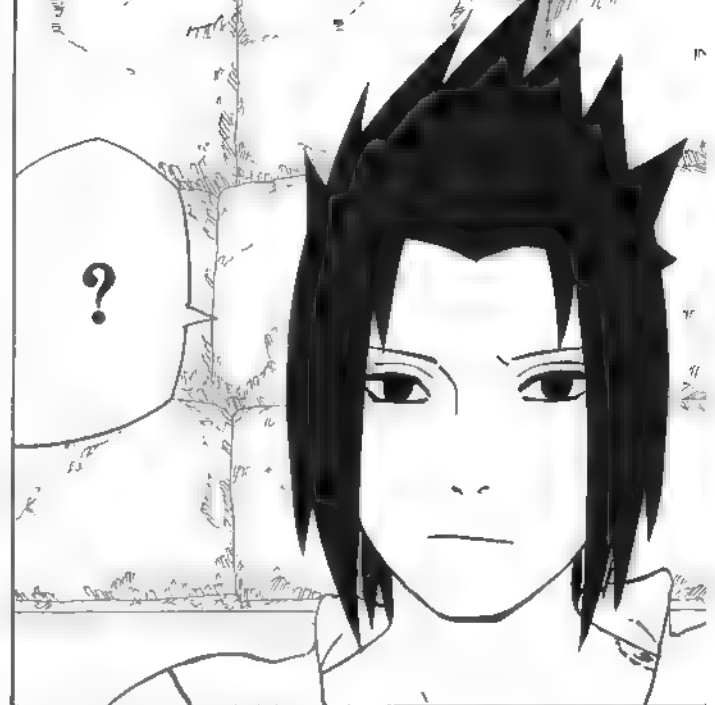


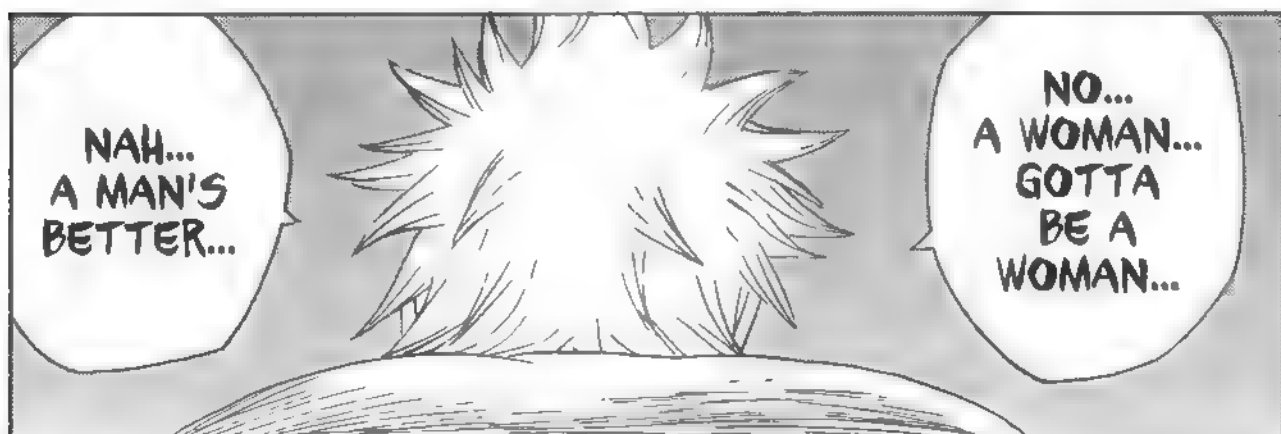






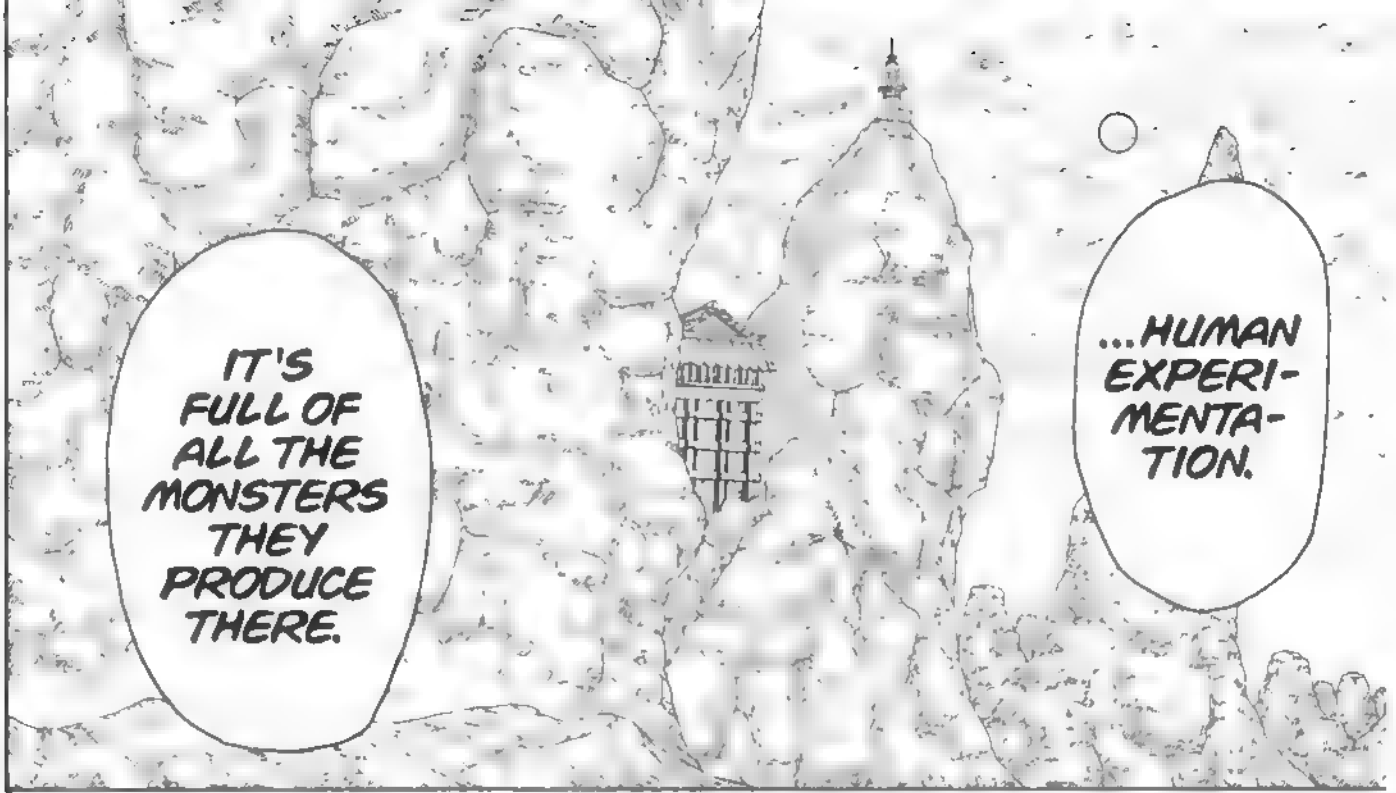


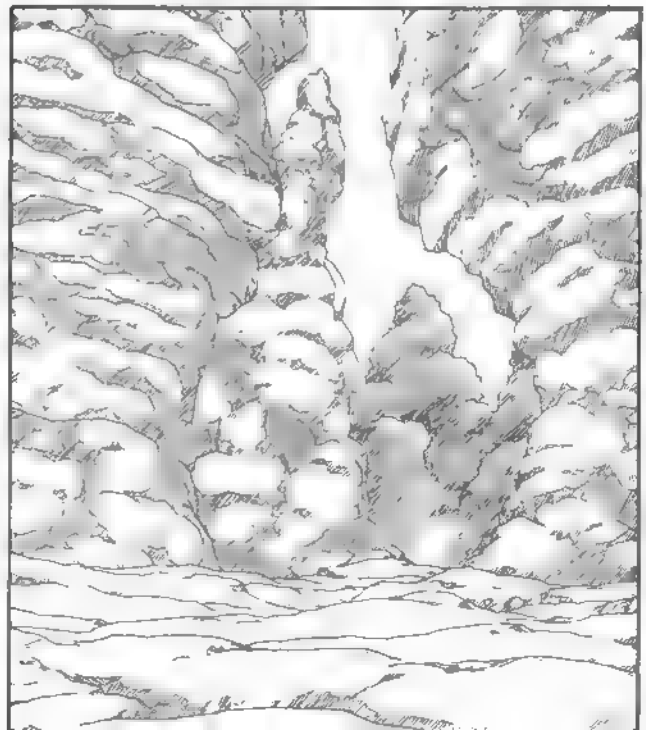


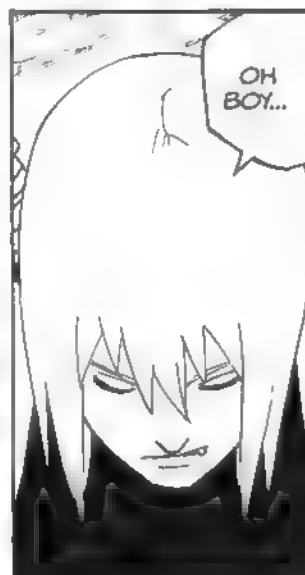
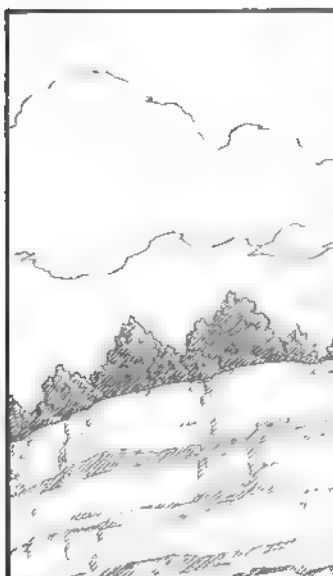
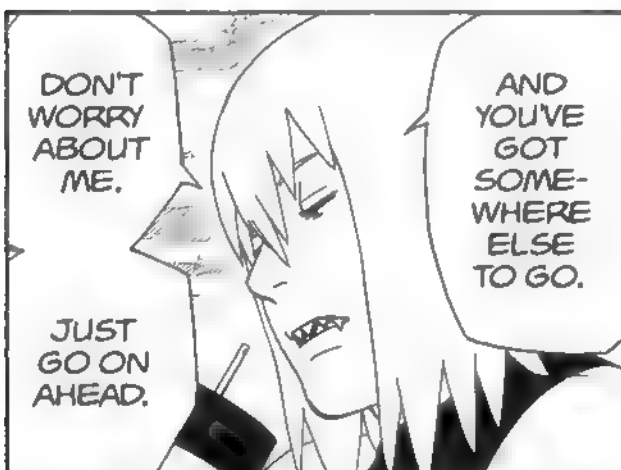
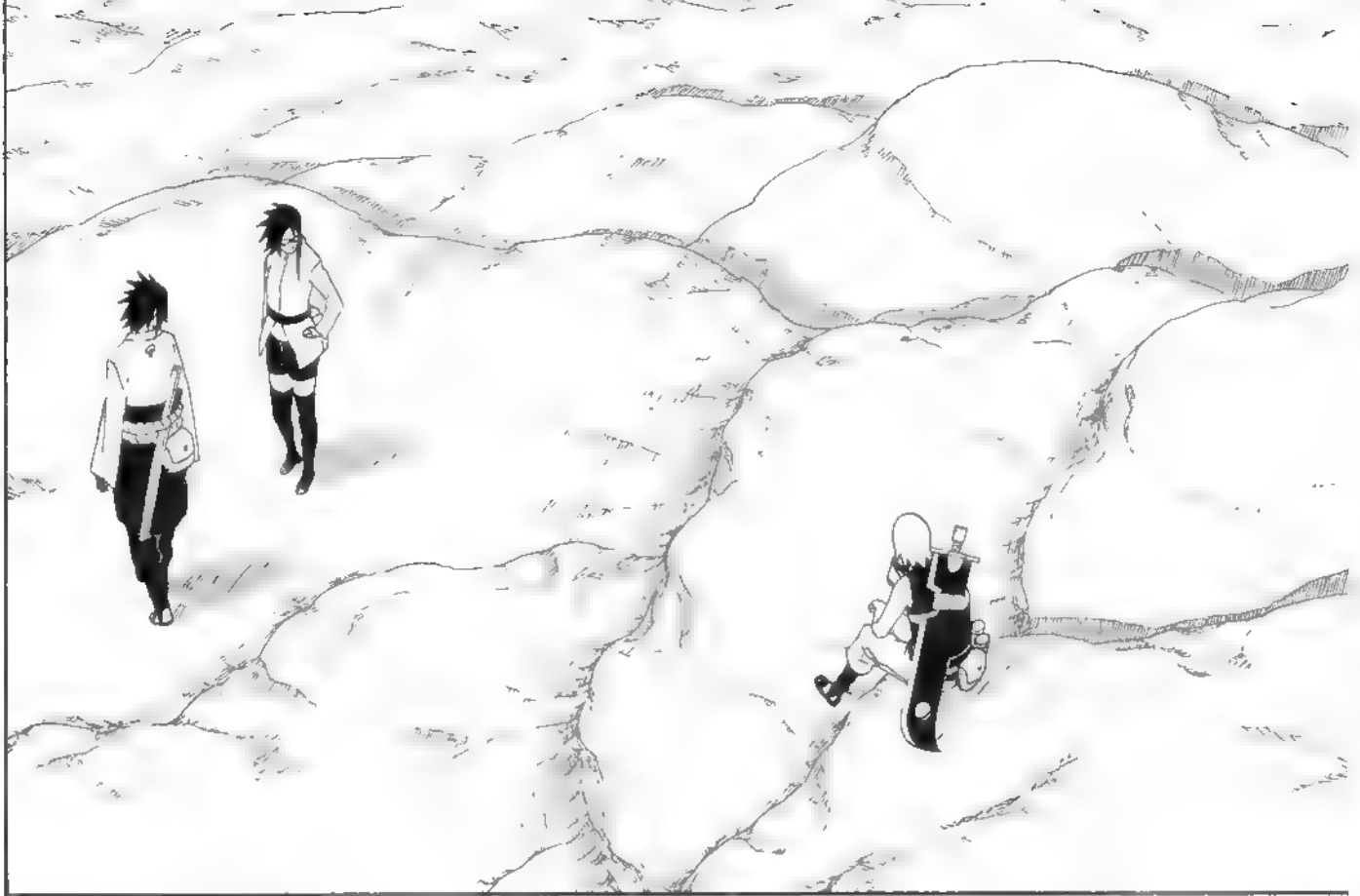


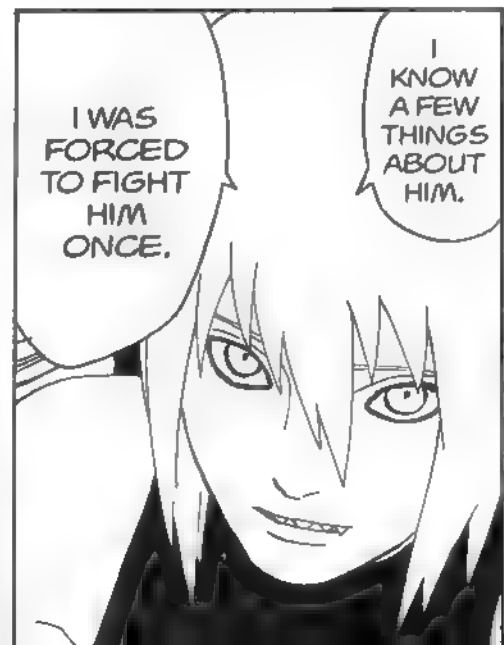
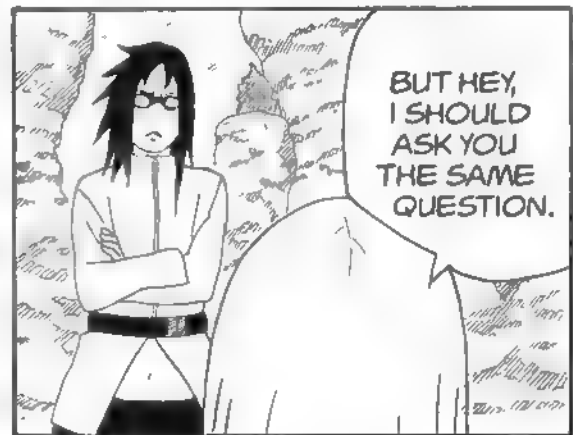
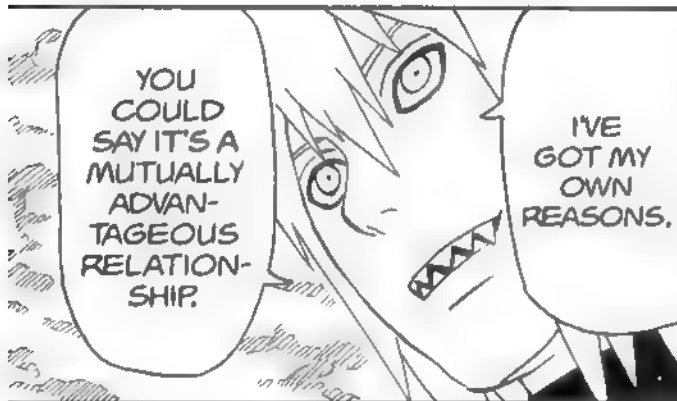
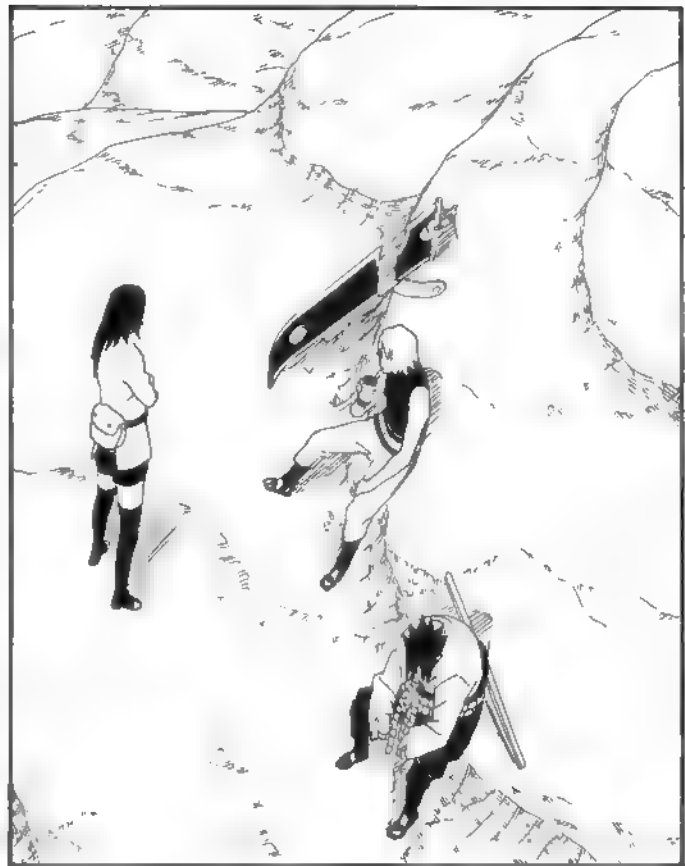
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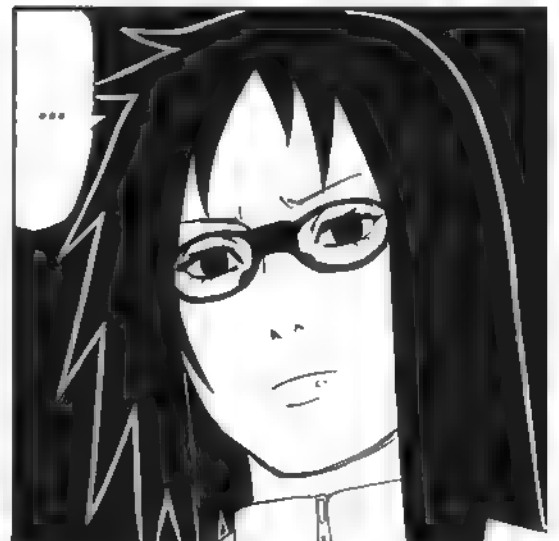
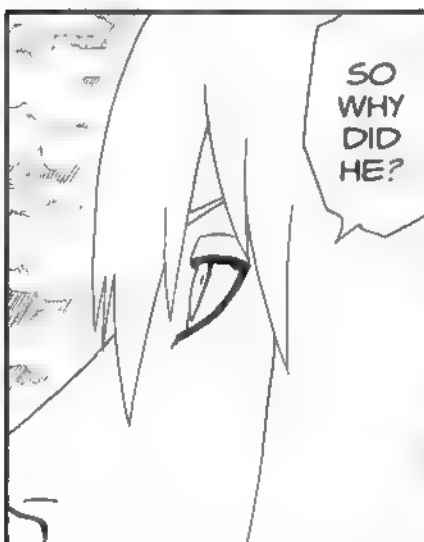
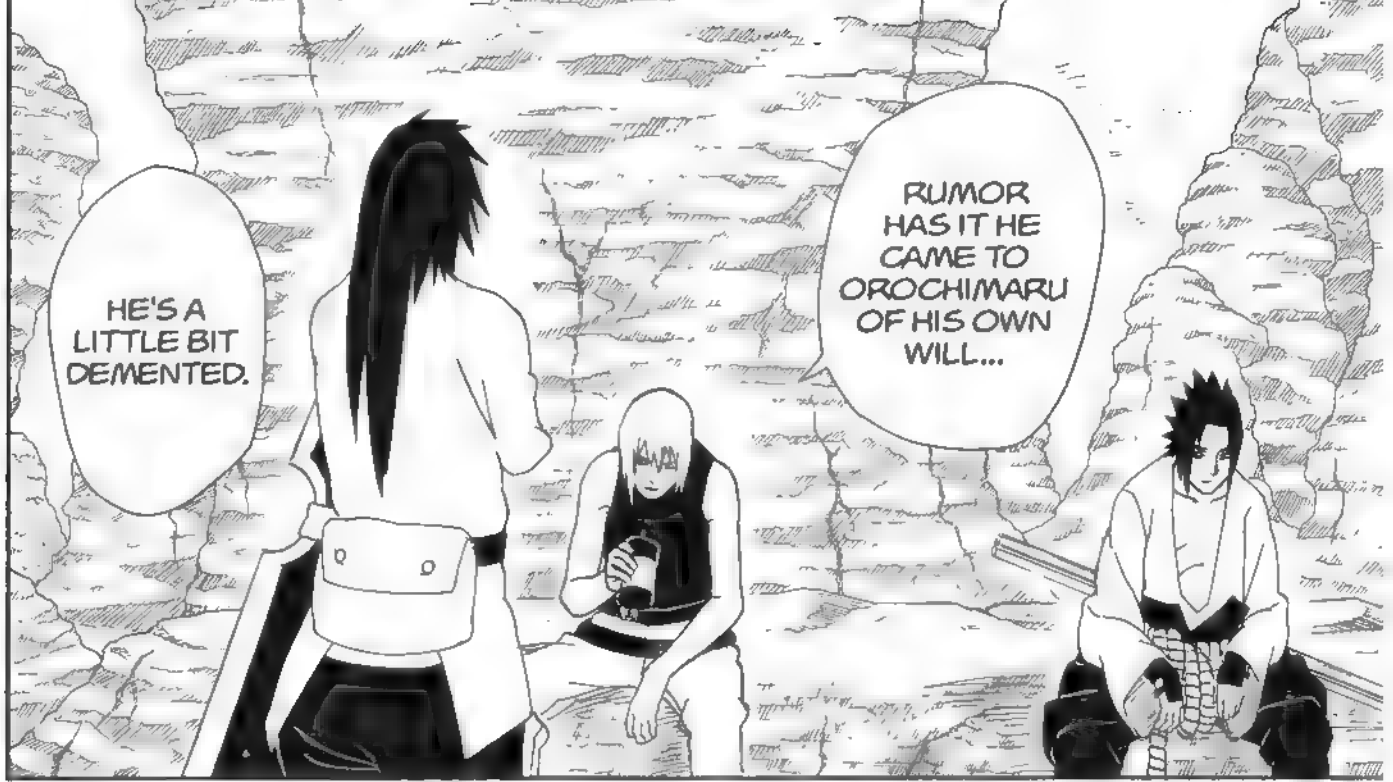




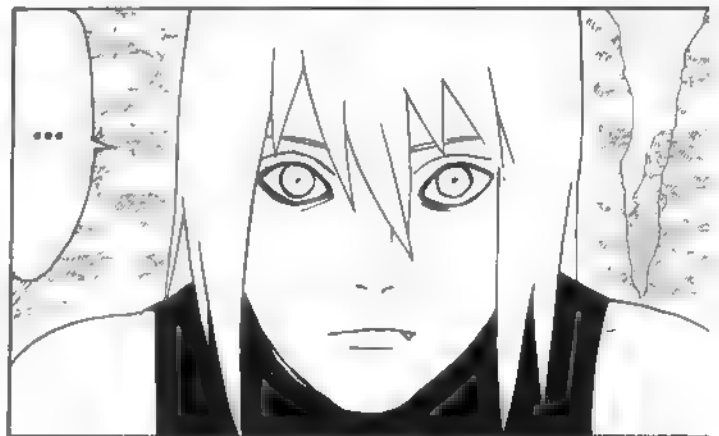
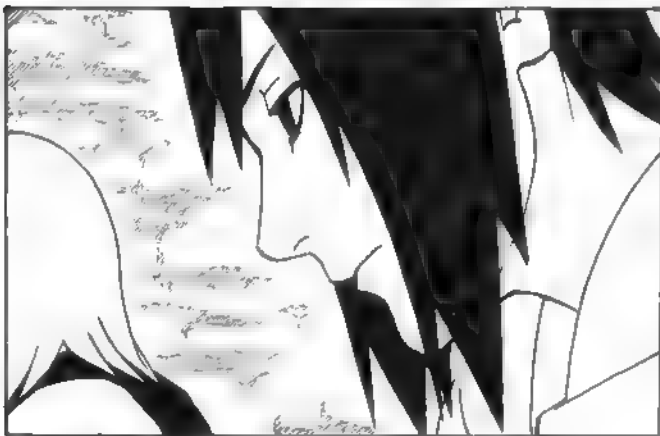




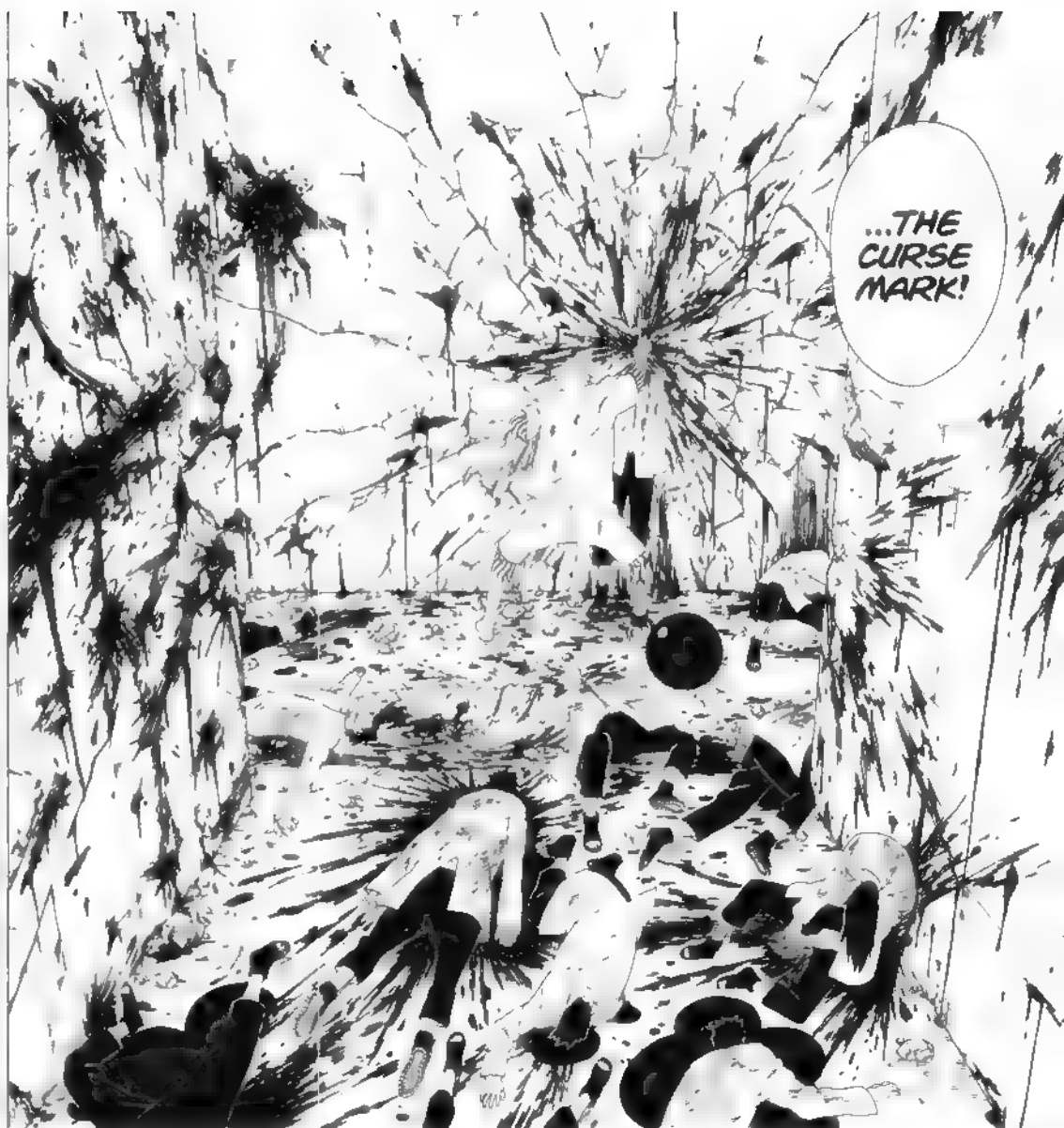


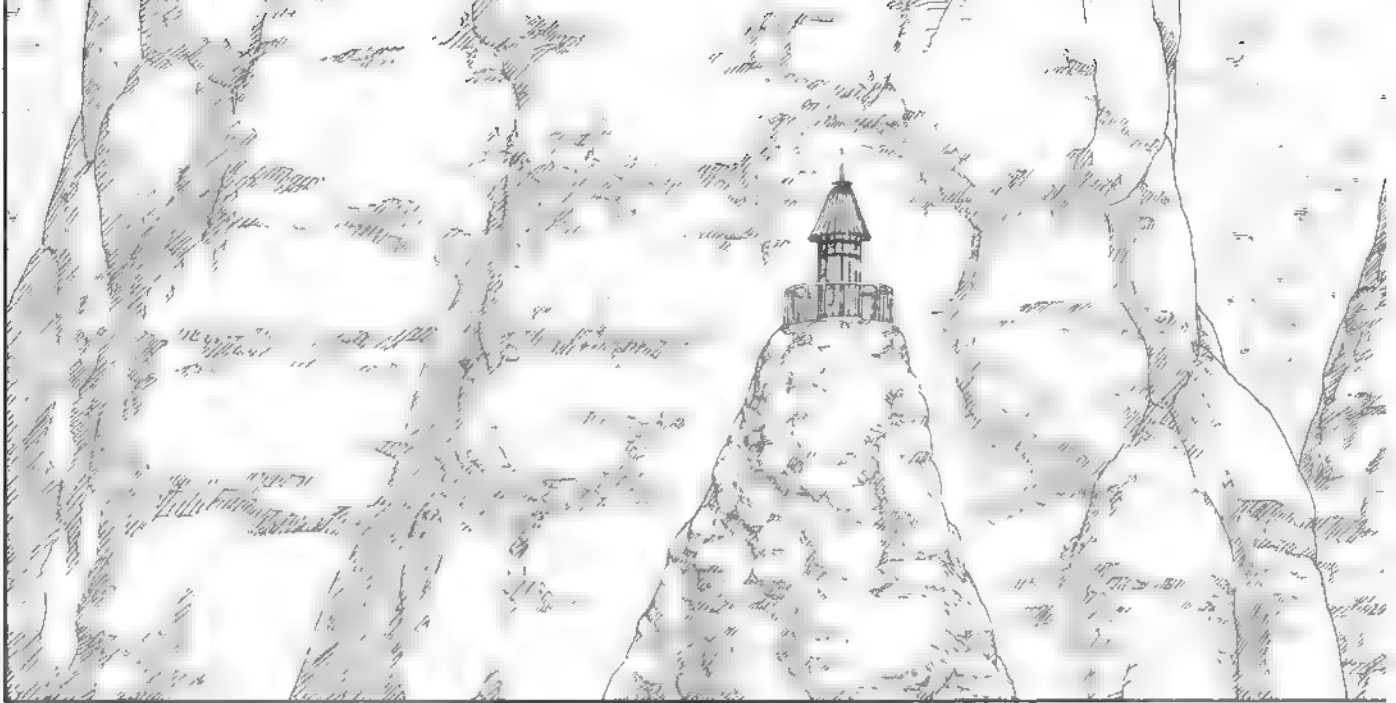


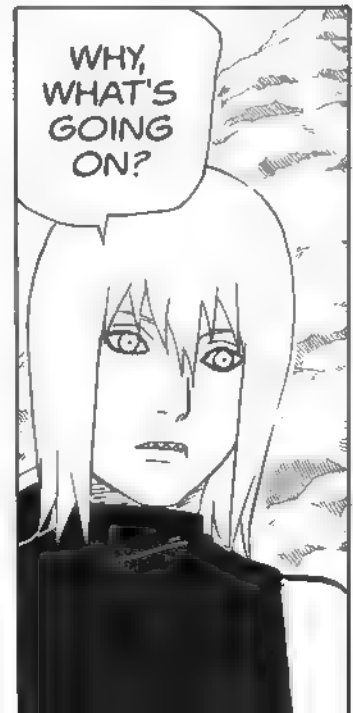
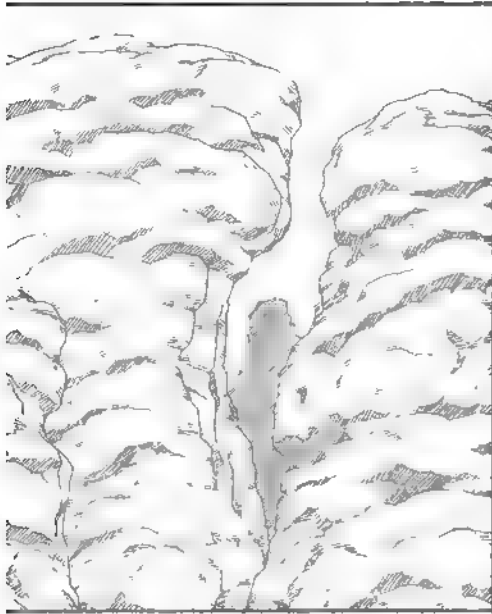




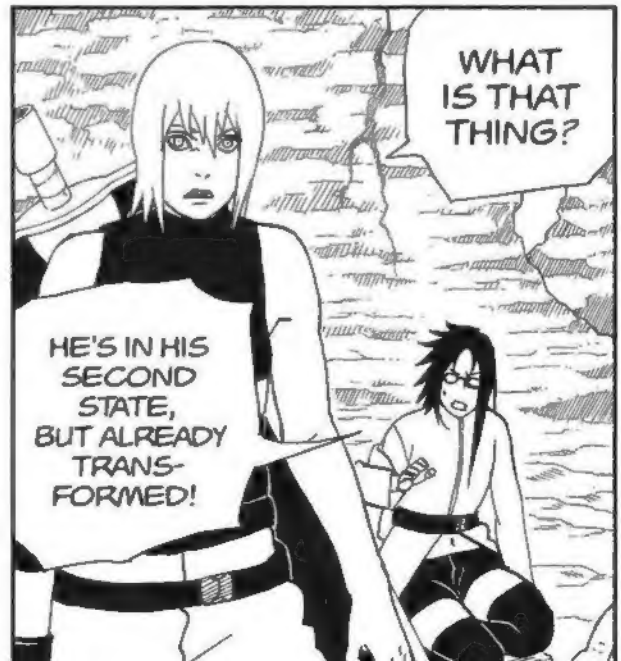
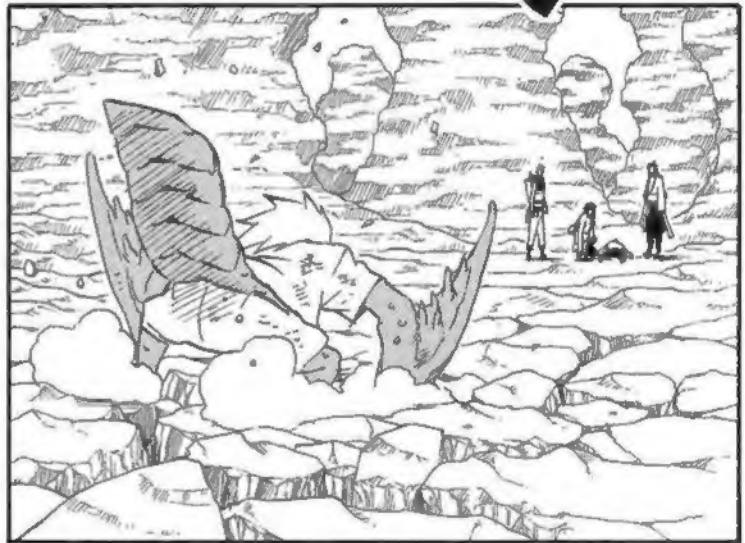












HE'S IN HIS
SECOND
STATE,
BUT ALREADY
TRANS-
FORMED!



